

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

1750

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, © 1997-1998

PETITION AGAINST  
SENATE BILL 36

RECEIVED  
APR - 9 1998  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TOK, AK 99780

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, STRONGLY OBJECT TO SENATE BILL 36. THIS BILL IS UNJUST AND PROMOTES ONE CLASS OF PEOPLE OVER ANOTHER. THESE REDUCTIONS TO OUR RURAL SCHOOLS WILL HARM OUR CHILDREN FOR GENERATIONS. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE RURAL AREAS WITHOUT ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING.

TO TAX PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IS TO BE IGNORANT OF THE REALITY THAT EXISTS IN RURAL ALASKA. TO FURTHER PUNISH RURAL ALASKANS BY TAKING AWAY MUCH NEEDED EDUCATIONAL FUNDING PROMOTES AND WIDENS THE GAP BETWEEN THE "HAVES" AND "THE HAVE NOTS".

SB 36 WILL DOOM GENERATIONS OF RURAL CHILDREN TO A LIFE OF EDUCATIONAL SHORTCOMINGS AND THE INABILITY TO COMPETE EQUALLY FOR JOBS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

WE STAND UNITED AGAINST SB 36 AND URGE THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO STAND WITH RURAL ALASKA AND DEFEAT THIS

*Offer in support - Robert W. McArthur*  
*Louis A. Morgan Box 527 Tok AK 99780*

*Freddie Lally - P.O. Box 913 Tok, AK. 99780*

*Freeman Lally P.O. 913 Tok, AK. 99780*

*Emma Northway Box 202 TOK AK 99780*

*Lucy Baird Box 535 TOK .. "*

*Leona Broken Bx 84 Tok. 99780*

*Margaret Hall TOK*

*Noothy O Marunde TOK*

*Bob McArthur TOK*

RECEIVED

APR - 9 1998

AK GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TOK, AK 99780

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George W Wallace PO Box 615 TOK, AK 99780  
~~George W Wallace~~  
 Rita Brown P.O. Box 201 Tok Alaska 99780  
 Doug Curves " 324 Tok, AK 99780  
 Lynn Ackerman " " " " "  
 M Taylor " " " " "  
 J. Quinn Box 254 Tok  
 Laurel [unclear] 199 Tok  
 add Helen Northway, AK. 99780  
 Duane Northway, Northway AK 99780  
 Alan [unclear] 1504 501 Tok AK 99780

PETITION AGAINST  
SENATE BILL 36

RECEIVED

APR - 9 1998

AK GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TOK, AK 99760

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, STRONGLY OBJECT TO SENATE BILL 36. THIS BILL IS UNJUST AND PROMOTES ONE CLASS OF PEOPLE OVER ANOTHER. THESE REDUCTIONS TO OUR RURAL SCHOOLS WILL HARM OUR CHILDREN FOR GENERATIONS. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE RURAL AREAS WITHOUT ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING.

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Mary [unclear]	Tetlin AK 99779
Wendy [unclear]	TANACROSS AK 99779
Ellen Thomas	Gen Del Tanacross AK 99779
Martha [unclear]	Gen DEL TANACROSS AK 99779
Emma Titus	Gen De Tetlin AK 99779
Johnny [unclear]	Metastar AK 99780



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE  
 committee name  
 committee on CSHB 406 (JUD) dated 4/7/98  
 bill/subject

Testimony for House Finance Committee Hearing of April 8, 1998.  
 My name is Bill Stockwell and I am the Chair of the Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee. I would like to make the following comments about CSHB 406(JUD), 4/7/98, \*Sec 3. AS 16.05.260 as amended.

16.05.260 (a) I do not understand why the word designate has replaced the word [DELEGATE]. Will the boards designate BY NAME the chair of local advisory committees, thus making her/him beholden to BOF/BOG? This would destroy local autonomy and take from the members of local advisory committees their right to elect their officers. OR is this new "legal speak"?

16.05.260 (a) Why must/shall recommendations from the local advisory committees be forwarded to regional advisory committees (new name)/regional advisory councils (old name) for other than subsistence? For no known or stated reason, this makes local advisory committees subservient to regional advisory committees/councils. ANILCA Sec. 805 requires at least six regional advisory councils for matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife ONLY. For all uses of fish and wildlife EXCEPT subsistence, local fish and game advisory committees should forward recommendations to BOF/BOG ONLY.

To make long standing, independent local advisory committees subservient to newly established regional, required only for subsistence, advisory committees is wrong and a disservice to local Alaskans.

Signed: Bill Stockwell

Testifier

COOPER LANDING FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 721 COOPER LANDING AK 99572

Address

(907) 595-1540

Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

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 committee name  
 committee on CSHB 406 (JUD) dated 4/7/98  
 bill/subject

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Signed: Bill Stockwell  
 Testifier

COOPER LANDING FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
 Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 721, COOPER LANDING AK 99572  
 Address

(907) 595-1540  
 Phone No.

Box 515  
Northway, Alaska 99764  
April 9, 1998

House Finance

Hanley, Therriault, Muldar, Davis, Foster, Kelly, Kohring, Martin, Davies,  
Grussendorf and Moses

Please, please do not vote for HB 36. Anyone with a concern for all of Alaska's children would not even consider voting for this House Bill. It was totally asinine and discriminatory for anyone to even write a bill of this sort and push it through.

I went through the public school system, graduating from Lathrop High School in 1967. My education had many opportunities that my sons have not had. In 1975, my husband and I moved to Northway and have raised our sons here. We have three sons, with the youngest graduating this May. I realize that they were not able to have music, art, theater, many business classes, a shop class with a certified shop teacher, a swimming pool, an indoor hockey rink, exposure to various arts, and other sports. We made the best of what was offered and they received an education where they could handle attending a college. This was with the "bare bones" of education.

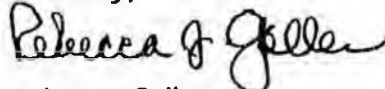
I strongly feel that the supporters of this bill have not experienced education in the rural areas. They definitely do not know what it is like to get what we get out here.

By cutting the rural school districts, I cannot see how this would be equal or fair. When you think about who lives in the rural areas (Native people), who is the state being unequal and fair to?

One of the many goals in Alaska is to help people be able to support themselves, to get off of welfare. It defeats the purpose if education is being cut in the area where it is most needed. Villages are making progress getting their children educated and supporting themselves. It is slow, but it is working. How can we as Native people support ourselves without good education? I don't know where the logic is with this bill. It looks greedy and with much prejudice.

Please reconsider your vote if you are supporting this bill.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Gallen

P.O. Box 27 (588-8529) after 5:00 pm any day  
Kwigillingok, AK 99622  
April 7, 1998

Dear Representative,

Note: The following article states my opinion.

Ten years ago three whales were caught in the arctic pack ice. The world spared no expense to save them. Now, three small Yup'ik villages are among many caught in the equally cold legislative pack ice of Juneau and Senate Bill 36. These fearless arctic inhabitants now wage one more battle, a battle for their language. Like trapped whales they are sealed in by urban votes.

State Senate Bill 36 will negatively affect a number of schools in one of the last native language dominant regions of the state. Additionally, SB 36 was drafted with little awareness of its educational impact.

My name is Bill Wilkinson, and over the past 21 years, I have taught in three Yup'ik villages on the west bank of the Kuskokwim river. In these three villages, (Kongiganak, Tuntutuliak, and Kwigillingok,) close to 100% of the children coming to school arrive speaking their native Yup'ik language. These children have a most unique educational program. Many people don't know that for decades educational materials written in Yup'ik have been developed for these Yup'ik bilingual programs. Most of their educational subjects for the first three grades are taught in Yup'ik. This is what the research says is best. In the 4th grade the children move from the mostly-Yup'ik program to the all-English program, except for one class of Yup'ik each day. These children continue to graduate reading, writing, and speaking both English and Yup'ik. A number of these students have gone on to college. This should be a point of pride for all of Alaska and America. Here is one example where the federal government and the state government for decades has tried to do the right thing and respect native culture. SB 36 will shamefully stop the Yup'ik instruction for these native speaking children by cutting the funds that hire their Yup'ik instructors. SB 36, if passed, will be a state and national shame.

A Harvard economist, David Reaume, has given the McDowell study,

on which SB 36 is based, a failing grade. The McDowell study is bad economic research and so is the legislation coming from it, Senate Bill 36. **The McDowell study completely ignored categorical funding. This is the funding source that we use for bilingual education, and the SB-36 crafters on their own- chopped funding at 20%. We must by law spend most of this 20% on Special Education students.**

Just stopping Yup'ik instruction for a few years will clearly begin the languages end. Senate Bill 36 will wipe out about 115 of the districts classified instructors. Many of these 115 instructors are native first language instructors for kindergarten, first, second, and third grade. SB-36 will also eliminate 65 certified teachers, some of whom supervise the first language teachers. Many of these first language Yup'ik teachers have many years of training. They can't be replaced by new English-only speaking teachers.

Most people in Anchorage don't know that in Kwigillingok most of what goes on in churches is in Yup'ik. Bibles, songs, and prayers are mostly in Yup'ik. Most of the time the village council meetings go on for hours without any English being spoken. Almost every household in town is filled with Yup'ik language except for a few of the certified educator's homes that have come into the village to teach. A person can sit at a school lunch table or walk among the playing children and hear their rich native language. SB 36 will hurt many rural areas of the state in different ways, but its effect in this southwestern Alaska region where there are so many communities with their native language intact will be devastating.

I am so upset with Senator Randy Phillips for misleading the good people of Eagle River and Anchorage by telling them that the 40/30 split is unfair. If they knew how these cuts will devastate us, they would call Senator Phillips and tell him not to trash one school system to help another, and ask him to find a better way to fund the state's educational needs. Sixty percent of the students in Alaska are in rural areas and 10% more funding is allocated to them to handle the extra cost of doing business in the bush. However, this might not be enough, for example, I added an addition to my home in Kwigillingok. I ordered \$10,000 of lumber from Seattle, the cheapest possible way to get materials. The lumber cost an additional \$10,000 to deliver. Isn't that more than 10% shipping?

To Senator Phillips I question your accuracy. Our school and residents wrote, called, and faxed you about our absolute displeasure concerning Senate Bill 36, and you personally called me at my home where I continued to share my total displeasure with SB 36. Kwigillingok protesters flew 500 hundred miles into Anchorage to picket and then watched you on the legislative information office monitor say, as you sat across the table from HESS Committee Chairman Con Bunde, something like, "I haven't gotten any public complaints against SB 36." That statement bent the limits of truth.

Most rural and urban people I've talked to or listened to have no problem with urban schools getting more money, but it should not be done by crushing rural schools. It doesn't make any difference whether SB 36 cuts our throats now or in three years; our cultural programs will be just as dead, and with them another Native American language.

According to John Greely, on ARCS the other night, the Permanent Fund is delivering more revenue to the state than North America's largest oil field. The Permanent, "rainy day" Fund had a billion dollars left over this year after inflation proofing, and after the permanent fund dividend checks went out all over the state. Before Senator Phillips starts trashing one school district to make his own better he should do three things. One: let his voters know things do cost more in the bush. Two: communicate more about how we should pull rural and urban people together, not divide them with bad political legislation. Third: think about that rainy day fund and realize, "It's pouring!!!"

How can the good people of Alaska help? First: Kill SB-36 in it's tracks by calling or writing your legislature! The wisest thing the legislature could do now is to leave things alone for a year, get all parties together out in the open, and work out a better solution. Avoid the hard-to-get-to conference rooms and instead meet in centrally located "bush" and "urban hubs" throughout the state with a well-funded bipartisan committee. Second: have an economic summit to look at a total reorganizing of state revenue funds to make a stable consistent education fund. If taxes are to be considered, they should be fair; nowhere in this wealthy state should a poor village pay more than it can afford. Third Alaskans should start electing legislators that submit legislation that unifies people instead of divide them.

There are not enough votes in the rural areas to beat SB 36; we are like the trapped whales. Rural, mostly native people are the minority. It wasn't always that way, but it is now. The only way SB 36 can be stopped is for the thousands of conscientious Alaskans and maybe even a few national organizations to help villages protect their native languages. SB 36 could be law in weeks. Many school districts will be hurt by SB 36, but I know best the story of these three villages. Stop SB 36 before it is too late. If these three villages were only whales possible more people would come to their rescue. Please help!

Respectfully,

BILL E. WILKINSON

Carl Otten, Mayor  
City of St. Michael  
P.O. Box 70  
St. Michael, Alaska 99659  
April 1, 1998  
Phone: 907-923-3222

TO: CONGRESSMEN AND LEGISLATORS OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

RE: SB36-FUNDING CUTS TO EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN RURAL ALASKA

Attached petition is about 99% of our voting population in St. Michael. We are very concerned about our school being threatened by the funding cuts if SB36 gets passed. We do not want our children to feel that they are targeted to leave our village to attend school elsewhere. We have worked so hard to keep our school a great place to learn and a beginning of a life long process that should prepare our students for life's great journey. Please reconsider and vote "NO."

Thank you for your time.

*Carl Otten, by  
Susanna Horn*

Carl Otten, Mayor  
(Signed by Susanna Horn, Vice-Mayor)

March 25, 1998

TO: Representative Richard Foster  
Room 410  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

FR: Residents of Saint Michael

RE: SB36 - Funding Cut for Educational Schools in Rural Alaska

Dear Honorable Representative Foster:

This letter is in regards to SB36 and the effect it will have on many upcoming leaders in Rural Alaska. In the past our children were sent away from their families to further their education; therefore causing families that live the subsistence way of life to suffer without the help of their teenage children,

After many years, high schools were finally started in each villages, bringing the children back home not only to their families, but also to their natural surroundings. Furthermore, having a high school in each village creates jobs for many local residents. Currently our schools are the main source of income for the majority of the families. There will be more people having to rely on ATAP, Food Stamps, etc., without the jobs that the schools create for each village.

**PLEASE VOTE NO TO SB36**

NAME	DATE
Garl Otten	3/26/98
Francine Otten	3/26/98
Theresa M. Kallak	3/26/98
Emily Kallak	3-26-98
Shirley Martin	3/26/98
Kathleen Otten	03/26/98
Frank Adams	3/26/98
Melanie Tom	3/26/98
Theresa Tom	3/26/98
Arthur Otten	3/26/98
Jane Otten	3/26/98
Mary A. Wall	3/26/98
Bernadette	3/26/98
Nora S. Sybilik	3/26/98
Suzie M. Johnson	3-26-98
Damian Tom	3-26-98
Susie Otten	3-26-98

NAME	DATE
Holmes Otter	3/26/98
Vincent Otter	3/26/98
Warren Blackwell	3-26-98
Theodore Otter	3-26-98
Ronald Otter	3-26-98
Stanley	" " "
Elizabeth Aketachunak	3-26-98
<del>Elizabeth Aketachunak</del>	<del>3-26-98</del>
Alberta Stue	3-26-98
Deane R. (Ammun)	3-26-98
Mark Ben	3/26/98
Fiona Filyonick	3-26-98
William Filyonick	3-26-98
Ran Pudarawa	3-26-98
J. D. Richardson	3-26-98
Clara Curtis	3-26-98
Lawrence B. Lockwood Sr	3-26-98
Lucene B. Lockwood	3-26-98
Hilary Snowball	3/26/98
Alma Snowball	3/26/98
Brent Lockwood	3/26/98
Doris Lockwood	3-26-98
John C. Washington	3-26-98
Christine M. Washington	3-26-98
Priscilla W. Washington	3-26-98
Richard W.	3-26-98
Elias Ukarian Sr	3-26-98
Hatia Ukarian	3-26-98
Carl Ukarian	3-26-98
Walter W. Giesman	3-26-98
Margaret Giesman	3-26-98
Pauline Korb	3-26-98
Peter Korb	3-26-98
Edward J. Blum	3-26-98
Joseph J. Blum	3-26-98
Charles Lockwood	3-26-98
Dorothy Lockwood	3-26-98
Dora Lockwood	3-26-98
Andrew Lockwood	3-26-98
Walter B. Otter Sr.	3-26-98
Sybil M. Otter	3-26-98
Jim Otter	3-26-98
Agnes Otter	3-26-98
Thelma Otter	3-26-98
Jeanne Otter	3-26-98
Rita Depoernick	3-27-98



# CORRECTION

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S)  
HAVE BEEN REFILMED TO  
ASSURE LEGIBILITY OR PAGINATION



Rev. 6/98

Central Microfilm Services  
Department of Education  
State of Alaska



NAME	DATE
Dan Billings	3-26-98
Christopher Roman	3-26-98
Melanie Amperak	3-26-98
Kim White	3/26/98
Charles B. Otten	3/26/98
Mary Otten	3/26/98
Michael Aketachunde	3/26/98
Max Clark Jr.	7/26/98
John Chernak	3/26/98
James Schubert	3-26-98
Robert J. Lockwood	3/26/98
Robert J. Otten	3-26-98
Michael Paul Wings M. Williams	3/26/98
Jessica Roman	3/26/98
Robert Kobuk	3/26/98
Robert Otten	3/26/98
Thomas Otten	3/26/98
Floyd Lockwood	3/26/98
Lyndee Lockwood	3/26/98
Alma Schubert	3-26-98
James Labrank Jr.	3-26-98
Ferry B. Kobuk	3/26/98
Allene Roman	3/26/98
Katherine Kobuk	3/26/98
Harold Kobuk	3/26/98
Rosemary Snowball	3/26/98
John Clark Jr.	3/26/98
Bill Hawkins	3/26/98
Robert Hawkins	3/26/98
John Hawkins	3/26/98
John Skyles	3-26-98
Jessica Roman	3-26-98
Mike Shalikoff	3-26-98
Nicholas Tam	3-26-98
Susan Don	3/26-98
Diane Morrison	3-26-98
George J. Kobuk	3-26-98
Charles B. Otten	3-26-98
John B. Roman	3-26-98
Muskel & Co.	" " "
Robert A. Andrews	3-26-98
Anthony W. Andrews	3-26-98

NAME

DATE

Mark's Fitch	3-26-98
Anthony & Margaret	3-26-98
Catherine & Douglas	3-26-98
Adel & Olymnick	3-26-98
Monica Olymnick	3-26-98
Dwayne Olymnick	3-26-98
Harold Chasick	3-26-98
Helen Tom	3-26-98
Lawrence W. Abouchak	3/27/98
John Lakson	3/27/98
Q. Kobuk	3-27-98
J. Steve	3-27-98
Laura J. Jorgensen	3-27-98
Walter J. Jorgensen	3/27/98
Eileen J. Jorgensen	3/27/98
James J. Jorgensen	3/27/98
John J. Jorgensen	3-27-98
Robert J. Jorgensen	3/27/98
Walt Jorgensen	3/27/98
Paul Washington	3-27-98
Judy Phillips Jorgensen	3-27-98
Elsie Jorgensen	3/27/98
Thomas Jorgensen	3/27/98
Connie Jorgensen	3/27/98
Rita Jorgensen	3/27/98
Shirley Jorgensen	3/27/98
Mrs. Matthias	3/27/98
Mary Jorgensen	3/27/98
Dorothy Jorgensen	3/27/98
Walter Jorgensen	3/27/98
Kenneth Jorgensen	3/27/98
Pauline Jorgensen	3/27/98
John Jorgensen	3/27/98
Kenneth Jorgensen	3/27/98
Chuck Beckel	3/27/98
Walter Jorgensen	3/27/98
Barbara Jorgensen	3/27/98
Andrew Jorgensen	3/27/98
Frederic Jorgensen	3/27/98
Rita Jorgensen	3/27/98
Virginia Washington	3/27/98
Paul Washington	3/27/98
Dorothy Jorgensen	3/27/98
Tom Jorgensen	3/27/98
Leo C. Kobuk	3/27/98

NAME

DATE

NAME	DATE
George Kalk	3/27/98
Norris Niksik	3/29/98
ALEXANDER A. N. K. S. R.	3/29/98
Phyllis Norman	3-27-98
Nora Akarun	3-27-98
Kathy Harrison	3-27-98
Kenneth Washington	3-27-98
Gene Orshulanski	3-27-98
Elizabeth B. Almsker	3-27-98
W. J.	3-27-98
Clifford L. Tom	3-27-98
Bernadette Tom	3-27-98
Eileen Almsker	3-27-98
Maria Almsker	3-27-98
Ruth A. Washington	3/27/98
Lee J. Kof. A. M.	3/27/98
Rev. J. Thomas E. Carlin S. J.	3/27/98
Albert A. Washington	3/27/98
Bibiana B. Washington	3-27-98
Elmer C. ...	3-27-98
Mary L. ...	3-27-98
Alvin ...	3/27/98
Maria ...	3/31/98
Stephan ...	3/31/98
Franchi B. ...	3/31/98
Alfred C. ...	3/31/98

4/6/98

Dear Concerned Alaskan Representative,

I have recently received a copy of Jean Stockburger's letter regarding SB36 that Representative Bunde is circulating. I would like to respond, briefly, to that letter.

Ms. Stockburger's primary complaint seems to be that parents aren't supporting the schools she has taught in. I can only take Ms. Stockburger at her word on this. In fact, I have no doubt that some rural students and schools have very poor parent support. Of course, this isn't the case for all rural students and schools. I have worked at two different village schools during the past 9 years. Both of those schools have been very well supported by the community. Currently, I am principal in Newtok. I have no problems getting volunteers and community support for the school whenever I ask. The same is true for parental support with regard to the children. Out of a student population of around 90, there are only 3 students that we have not been successful in getting parental support to encourage better attendance and behavior. However, to be fair, I rather suspect that if one were to ask the principals of Anchorage and Fairbanks schools about these issues, parental support and attendance, my bet is that one would find that for some urban schools, just as is true for some rural schools, this is not a unique problem. In fact, as I recall, rural schools tend, as a general rule, to have much better attendance than most urban schools.

Ms. Stockburger's other piece of criticism seems centered about the fact that parents in rural schools are concerned about losing basketball and free breakfasts. Sports in rural schools are no less important than sports are to urban schools. I can't help but wonder what sort of cacophony you would hear if budget cuts to the schools in your district would mean the end of school-sponsored basketball, football, volleyball, hockey, swimming, etc.

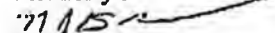
With regard to concerns about free meals, it seems to me that in communities, such as many of the schools of the Lower Kuskokwim School District, where 80-90% of students are on the federal free lunch program, and, thus, 80-90% of the families are below the poverty level, concern about providing healthy meals for children isn't too extreme a reaction.

Ms. Stockburger concludes with, "Until parents and all members of a village change their attitudes and start working productively to support education I feel changes in the funding are justified." I guess I just don't agree with the notion of cutting educational funding for children because one doesn't like the attitude of their parents.

SB36 is a mistake. Please, do not support this piece of legislation.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Thank you.

  
Mark Douglas  
Newtok, Alaska (August to May)  
Fairbanks, Alaska (June and July)  
H: 237-2207

4-5-98

Hi.....

from Bill

Just a quick note as I'm 3 weeks behind and I don't think I'll ever get caught up. This letter was sent to Rep.Con Bunde and he is using it as a tool to discredit what almost everyone is saying against SB 36. It is causing other legislators to rethink their positions. If you respond to this letter

PLEASE do not respond negatively.

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- ✓ ✕ Representative Gail Phillips - District 7 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-3472
  
- ✕ Representative Con Bunde - District 18 - Republican  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 104  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-4843  
Representative Con Bunde@legis.state.ak.us
  
- ✓ ✕ Representative Ivan Ivan - District 39 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-4539
  
- ✓ ✕ Representative Richard Foster - District 38 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-3242

✓ \*Representative Gene Kubina - District 35 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-3799

\* Representative Mark Hanley - District 12 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-2418

Representative Ramona Barnes - District 22 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-4565

Representative Ethan Berkowitz - District 13 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-2137

Representative Tom Brice - District 30 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-2937

Representative Eric Croft - District 15 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-4419

Representative John Davles - District 29 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-3519

Representative Gary Lee Davis - District 8 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-3835

Representative Fred Dyson - District 25 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-4587

Representative Ben Grussendorf - District 2 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-2278

Representative Jeannette James - District 34 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-2381

Representative Reggie Joule - District 37 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-4586

Representative Pete Kelly - District 31 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-5241

Representative Allen Kemplen - District 16 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-6615

Representative Albert Kookesh - District 5 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-2827

Representative Pete Kott - District 16 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-2819

Representative Terry Martin - District 14 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-2293

Representative Beverly Mack - District 28 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-4822

Representative Carl Moses - District 40 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-3445

Representative Eldon Mulder - District 23 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-3518

Representative Irene Nicholla - District 36 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-2197

Representative Brian Porter - District 20 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-3834

Representative Norman Rokeberg - District 11 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-2040

Representative Joe Ryan - District 21 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-4588

Representative Jerry Sanders - District 19 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-3476

Representative Al Vezey - District 32 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-3258

**Representative Bill Williams - District 1 - Democrat**  
**Fax: (907) 465-3793**



**KAKE**

Tribal Corporation

APR 06 1998

Anchorage Daily News  
April 3, 1998

Dear Editor:

As the executives of Southeast Native corporations representing thousands of shareholders and hundreds of skilled jobs, we take a keen interest in Alaskan education issues. Collectively, the Native corporations of our region award well over a million dollars in post-secondary scholarships each year.

Our shareholders are deeply concerned about Senate Bill 36, which would alter the education funding formula for public schools. The funding formula is a complicated subject, but the effect of SB 36 is simple: it will deny to children living in rural areas the opportunity for equal education.

With legislation like SB 36, we are in danger of having our school system relapse to the era of separate and unequal education that was declared illegal by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision forty years ago in the case of *Brown vs. the Board of Education*. We expect the Alaska Legislature to follow the law of the land and provide the funds necessary for quality education no matter where our students live.

As corporate executives, we know that it is more expensive to conduct business in rural areas than it is in urban areas. The same conditions apply to education. It is not possible to provide equal education in Angoon for the same price per student as it is in Anchorage.

In our region the new formula imposed by SB 36 would reduce the Pelican School District's funding by 35%, while the Ketchikan School District would get an increase of 22%. In your area of the state, Anchorage schools will get an increase, while school budgets in the Yupik villages of the lower Yukon and Kuskokwim will be reduced.

This is about fairness and equality; it is not about urban areas subsidizing rural districts. State funding of education is a distribution of income the state receives from non-renewable resources, not from taxes paid by individual Alaskans. SB 36 would redistribute wealth, taking from poor villages and giving to affluent communities.

We who conduct business affairs in rural areas believe that quality education is crucial to the future of rural economies. All of Alaska's children deserve the equal opportunity provided by equal education.

By Gordon Jackson *Gordon Jackson*  
Chairman, Southeast ANCSA President's Association

Representing: Cape Fox Corporation of Saxman  
Goldbelt, Inc. of Juneau  
Haida Corporation of Hydaburg  
Kake Tribal Corporation of Kake  
Kootznoowoo, Inc. of Angoon  
Shaan Seet, Inc. of Craig  
Shee Atika, Inc. of Sitka  
Klukwan, Inc. of Klukwan

3017 CLINTON DR., SUITE 100  
P.O. BOX 263

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801 FAX: (907) 790-2264  
KAKE, ALASKA 99830 FAX: (907) 785-6407  
CALL TOLL FREE: 800-478-7853

PHONE: (907) 790-2214  
PHONE: (907) 785-3221

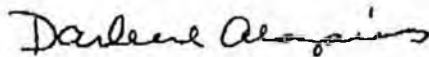
April 8, 1998

To: Members of House Finance

I'm writing in opposition to SB 36. We live in the villages and know the needs of monies in our rural schools. The students in rural Alaska are not getting the up to date equipment to meet the future, due to the lack of funding in everything they try to get into. Due to the fact all monies are not available. It's being spent on urban school districts. We the rural people know of the need of monies to equip our schools with up to date equipment to prepare our kids for the future. The school is already short with funds, what's going to happen when this bill passes??? Please oppose SB 36.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Darlene Aloysius

Box 212

Holy Cross, AK 99602

April 8, 1998

To: Members of House Finance

I'm writing in opposition to SB 36. This bill will take away millions of dollars from the rural school districts. Please don't let this happen. The children are our future. What will happen to the education of our young children if this bill passes? Parents will be forced to send their children to urban schools just so that they can participate in extra-curricular activities. We want our children with us, they should be given the privilege of attending school in their own community. Please oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*James Sims*

James Sims  
Box 28  
Holy Cross, AK 99602

April 8, 1998

To: Members of House Finance

I'm writing in opposition to SB 36. This bill will take away much needed money for the rural school districts. What will happen to the education of our children??? Parents will start sending their kids away just so that they can participate in sports and extra-curricular activities. Please do not let this happen. Our children should be able to attend school in their own community. They have to grow up in their own environment to learn their Native cultural values. This won't happen if they are forced to attend school elsewhere.

Please oppose this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Mary Ann Anthony*

any Ann Anthony

Box 23

Holy Cross, AK 99602

4-5-98

Hi.....  
From Bill

Just a quick note as I'm 3 weeks behind and I don't think I'll ever get caught up. This letter was sent to Rep.Con Bunde and he is using it as a tool to discredit what almost everyone is saying against SB 36. It is causing other legislators to rethink their positions. If you respond to this letter

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- ✓ \* Representative Gail Phillips - District 7 - Republican  
Fax: (907) 465-3472
  
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House of Representatives  
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Representative Con Bunde@legis.state.ak.us
  
- ✓ \* Representative Ivan Ivan - District 39 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-4589
  
- ✓ \* Representative Richard Foster - District 38 - Democrat  
Fax: (907) 465-3242

4/6/98

Dear Concerned Alaskan Representative,

I have recently received a copy of Jean Stockburger's letter regarding SB36 that Representative Bunde is circulating. I would like to respond, briefly, to that letter.

Ms. Stockburger's primary complaint seems to be that parents aren't supporting the schools she has taught in. I can only take Ms. Stockburger at her word on this. In fact, I have no doubt that some rural students and schools have very poor parent support. Of course, this isn't the case for all rural students and schools. I have worked at two different village schools during the past 9 years. Both of those schools have been very well supported by the community. Currently, I am principal in Newtok. I have no problems getting volunteers and community support for the school whenever I ask. The same is true for parental support with regard to the children. Out of a student population of around 90, there are only 3 students that we have not been successful in getting parental support to encourage better attendance and behavior. However, to be fair, I rather suspect that if one were to ask the principals of Anchorage and Fairbanks schools about these issues, parental support and attendance, my bet is that one would find that for some urban schools, just as is true for some rural schools, this is not a unique problem. In fact, as I recall, rural schools tend, as a general rule, to have much better attendance than most urban schools.

Ms. Stockburger's other piece of criticism seems centered about the fact that parents in rural schools are concerned about losing basketball and free breakfasts. Sports in rural schools are no less important than sports are to urban schools. I can't help but wonder what sort of cacophony you would hear if budget cuts to the schools in your district would mean the end of school-sponsored basketball, football, volleyball, hockey, swimming, etc.

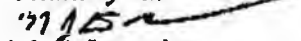
With regard to concerns about free meals, it seems to me that in communities, such as many of the schools of the Lower Kuskokwim School District, where 80-90% of students are on the federal free lunch program, and, thus, 80-90% of the families are below the poverty level, concern about providing healthy meals for children isn't too extreme a reaction.

Ms. Stockburger concludes with, "Until parents and all members of a village change their attitudes and start working productively to support education I feel changes in the funding are justified." I guess I just don't agree with the notion of cutting educational funding for children because one doesn't like the attitude of their parents.

SB36 is a mistake. Please, do not support this piece of legislation.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Thank you.

  
Mark Douglas  
Newtok, Alaska (August to May)  
Fairbanks, Alaska (June and July)  
II: 237-2207

ELAINE M. LANDON  
3747 Linnaea Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

April 3, 1998

Honorable Alaska Senators  
& House members,

I am writing regarding SB 36. It is not a bill I support, despite the fact that I am a 20 year Fairbanks resident and know our schools need more funding. The funding formula proposed in SB 36 is tremendously unjust to our rural schools.

It is an oversimplification to assume that school funding should be based on the percentage or number of students alone. Fairbanks and Anchorage enjoy a large economy of scale benefit in their operating and maintenance costs compared to rural schools. The new formula does not recognize these factors.

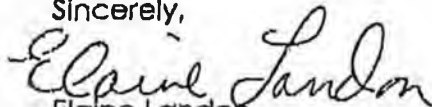
As citizens of Alaska, we are responsible to provide quality education for all students. It is unrealistic to expect true education to occur when school buildings are falling apart, when the books are old, and when the student/teacher ratio is out of balance. The new formula virtually guarantees such problems for rural schools. It costs money to provide a good education for our student citizens. And yes, the cost of educating those in the rural areas is higher. But we have an obligation to provide a quality education for all students, not just those in Fairbanks and Anchorage.

Anyone with a good education knows that numbers can be easily manipulated to provide justification for many positions and needs. When the McDowell Study did not consider higher operating costs for rural schools, or the greater economy of scale experienced by urban schools, it did not look at the whole educational picture. And without looking at the whole picture, e.g., the true cost of education, the proposed funding formula is simply a manipulation of figures to justify a self-serving idea.

SB 36 does not benefit the state overall in the long run. While it may provide better funding for urban schools in the short run, over the long haul, it will cost us more. As rural educational quality declines, there will be fewer Alaskans qualifying for good jobs, more people unemployed, higher rates of crime, etc., etc., etc.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that the SB 36 school funding formula is not fair or just. I urge you to do what is right for Alaska and not just for the urban districts. Please vote against SB 36.

Sincerely,

  
Elaine Landon

HC 1 Box 124 B  
Soldotna, AK 99669

April 2, 1998

RE: SB 36

Hello, my name is Teresa Hoops and I am a homeschooling parent who has been teaching my daughters for the past 4 years. I believe that as the guardian of my children I should be held accountable for what they are learning.

This being so, I also should have the right to choose what curriculum we use and where we get it from. In a public or private school setting, if a parent wanted to have their child in a school on the other side of town from where they live, they have the right to make that choice. Why can't I?

Having my daughters enrolled in a different district should be, again as their parent, my choice. We have been with Copper River School District for 2 yrs. A new computer or the fact that my choice of curriculum is now offered through my own district has no bearings on my desire to change districts. Just as a parent may find teachers/administrators in another school more to their liking, so I have found Copper River School District to be more than helpful in meeting our needs.

By allowing choices of districts, we all can make Alaska a great place to educate our youngsters.

Please DON'T support SB 36.

Thankyou and God Bless You!

Teresa Hoops



MAR 26 1998

Page Two: Tribal Council Resolution No. 98-05

WHEREAS, Passage of Senate Bill 36 will cripple villages who are already experiencing and economic disaster from recent fishery industry failure and lack of job opportunities, and

WHEREAS, The passage of this bill will certainly have long and drastic effects on the operation of Rural School Districts and the support and assistance in all areas of education provided for the children of Village Alaska and worst yet, it will also halt the enormous academic progress of the children living in REAA regions in areas of mathematics, reading, and writing halt the advancement of knowledge's, skills and abilities of children and their future contribution to the general well-being and economy of Village Alaska; and

WHEREAS, The REAA School Districts are working together diligently and successfully to support and assist in the process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Council of the Native Village of Newtok respectfully implores and requests the Alaska State Legislatures to reconsider its position and action toward the children of Village Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tribal Council of the Native Villages of Newtok goes on the record to oppose the passage off Alaska State Senate Bill No. 36 by the Alaska State Legislatures.

ADOPTED AND SIGNED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1998 by the Newtok Traditional Council at the duly called meeting where quorum was present with 8 voting in favor and 0 against the measure

*Stanly Tom*  
Stanely Tom, President

ATTESTED BY:

*Joseph Patrick*  
Joseph Patrick, Secretary





**VALDEZ CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**RESOLUTION 98-02**

The Valdez Chamber of Commerce, representing 230 members doing business in Valdez, Prince William Sound and in part the Greater Copper Basin are concerned for the quality and cost of education of students;

**WHEREAS;** the leaders of our communities, states and our nation are the youth of today and,

**WHEREAS;** the primary resource for our youth is the quality of the education and,

**WHEREAS;** the rural communities of the State of Alaska have a greater volume of obstacles to overcome to provide education and,

**WHEREAS;** the reallocation of dollars as presented in HB36 redirect the majority of state funded education dollars to urban areas and,

**WHEREAS;** this reallocation is representative of a decrease of 1.8 million dollars annually or 28% of the current dollars received by Valdez from state funded education dollars and,

**WHEREAS;** the City of Valdez currently pay 50% of the cost of education of its students (second highest in the state) and,

**WHEREAS;** we recognize the efforts to put an equal percentage of dollars in locations with like percentage of students and,

**WHEREAS;** we recognize the areas with a higher percentage of students also have a broader base to derive alternative funding sources than most rural areas and,

**WHEREAS;** all areas of the State of Alaska have value and should have equal opportunity to provide quality education to the youth of our state and,

**WHEREAS;** the burden of replacing lost state funding for Valdez will be borne in majority by the businesses of this community and,

**WHEREAS;** these businesses have experienced a steady decline in the economy for the last three years and will find it difficult to meet the financial requirements to fund the 1.8 million dollars needed annually;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, the Valdez Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes this bill and request a more equitable funding base for education for all the youth of Alaska.

Signed and dated at Valdez, Alaska this 19th day of March, 1998.

Rich Nielsen  
Rich Nielsen, Chairman VCC  
Manager for BP Shipping, USA

Sandra Bittner  
Sandra Bittner, Director VCC  
Owner Sandra's Gold & Silvermithing

Michael E. Easley  
Michael E. Easley, Vice Chairman VCC  
Manager Engineering Services  
Copper Valley Electric Assoc.

Kurt Hallier  
Kurt Hallier, Director VCC  
Port Operations Manager,  
ARCO

Kandy Maag  
Kandy Maag, Past Chairman VCC  
General Manager Petro Star Valdez

Stacey Mitchell  
Stacey Mitchell, Secretary VCC  
Owner Aurora Charters

Connie Stephens  
Connie Stephens, Treasurer VCC  
Manager Beaver Sports

Dave Beck  
Dave Beck, Director VCC  
Manager Ketchum Air Services

Douglas Desorcie  
Douglas Desorcie, Director VCC  
Dean of Instruction, Prince William  
Sound Community College

SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT  
P.O. Box 8340  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
Telephone: (907) 225-9658  
Facsimile: (907) 225-8908

### **FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL**

**DATE:** March 25, 1998

**TO:** Representative Mark Hanley  
Alaska State Legislature

**FAX:** 465-2418

**FROM:** Ray J. Griffith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

**RE:** SB 36

Number of pages including cover sheet: 3

We will appreciate any assistance you can give us with this bill. Thank you in advance!



**SOUTHEAST  
ISLAND  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**

1621 TONGASS AVENUE SUITE 301  
POST OFFICE BOX 8340  
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901  
PHONE: (907) 225-9658  
FAX: (907) 225-2836

Ray Griffith  
SUPERINTENDENT

March 24, 1998

The Honorable Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
Capital Room 507  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

As superintendent of Southeast Island School District, I am writing with grave concern relative to SB36. Passage of SB36 in its current form can mean closure of five of SISD's 12 schools in October of this year.

As you are well aware, the bill would set a minimum of ten students for a school to be counted as a funding community. Any number fewer than ten would be counted as students of the largest school in the district, with a significant drop in funding for that site.

The immediate concern is that the bill would delay determination of fiscal year funding until the end of the October count period and then provide funding for that same fiscal year based on the October count. That impacts our district drastically. We would contract teachers, by state law and negotiated contract terms, prior to the current year based on current status, prepare buildings, commit to students and parents and fund to that anticipated level. If a site fell below the minimum count, however, we would not be funded at the anticipated and planned for level. SB36 would leave us committed and stranded without adequate funding to fulfill our predetermined commitment. In a district that is cutting 20% of its funding for the next fiscal year just to balance our budget, that unanticipated level of loss would be devastating. SB36 puts us in a catch-22. If we don't provide a school for a community with 8 anticipated elementary students, we are in violation of 4 AAC 05.040. If we do commit to a school in August but have fewer than ten in October, we do not receive adequate funding to keep the school open and to fulfill our contracted employee commitments and commitment to students and community.

We are asking you to help us get an amendment to SB36 that gives us some relief from so drastic an impact. We are proposing that the bill be amended as follows:

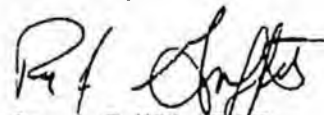
**Sec.39 TRANSITION: SMALL SCHOOLS.** For purposes of determining the school size factor under AS 14.17.450, enacted under Sec. 2 of this Act, the students in a school smaller than 10 ADM [on the effective date of this section] shall be included in the largest school in the district, **beginning in the fiscal year following the count period during which the school falls below 10 ADM.**

Southeast Island School District is opposed to SB36. We consider it to be based on a seriously flawed study commissioned by the Senate Finance Committee, one that would unfairly and unwisely redistribute funding from some school districts to other school districts, thereby creating "winners" and "losers." The effect would glaringly take funding away from rural districts and give it to urban districts. We are further distressed that SB36 fails to consider "program" equity as well as "funding" equity. Even the most cursory analysis will reveal the vast disparity between programs available to urban students as opposed to rural students.

In the unfortunate event that SB36 were to become law, the proposed amendment would forestall for at least nine months the closing of almost half of Southeast Island School District's schools. At least our students and parents and district board and administration would have minimal time to plan for the loss of access to local schools. To close schools in late October and expect students and parents to have acceptable immediate alternatives is unfair and unwise.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request for help. It would be tragic for students to not only lose the opportunity for education in their local communities, but to lose it without adequate time to seek and find alternative educational programs.

Sincerely,



Ray J. Griffith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

cc: Commissioner Shirley Holloway  
Governor Tony Knowles  
Carl Rose, AASB  
Stephen McPhetres, AASA  
Alaska School Superintendents

## LKSD Media Center

P. O. Box 305  
Bethel, AK 99559  
(907) 543-4882  
FAX (907) 543-4911  
March 20, 1988

Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

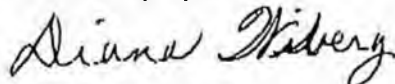
Dear Representative Hanley:

I would like to urge you to consider the needs of the children in the rural areas of the state. We are so spread apart and travel is difficult and totally weather-dependent. Isolation and primitive lifestyle make it extremely difficult to recruit and retain teachers. Because our students are isolated and speak English as a second language, it is necessary to have local native staff employed as cultural and language interpreters. Reduction of these jobs in the school will make it necessary for more people in villages to ask for welfare because the school is the major employer.

Making public schools beneficial for all is terribly expensive in the rural areas. We must continue to have the funding that we need to make it possible for us to bring these students up to the educational level of the urban student. We want our rural students to be able to contribute their fair share to the future economy of our state and we must educate them in order for that to happen.

Please reconsider your vote on SB36. Please do not take away one-fourth of our budget. Passage of this bill will be devastating to many people. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours:



Diana J. Wiberg  
LKSD Site Library/Media Coordinator

TO: REPRESENTATIVE MARK HANLEY-DISTRICT 12-REPUBLICAN

FROM: STUDENTS AT LKSD's NAPAIAK SCHOOL

WE WILL NOT LEARN IN SCHOOL IF YOU CUT OFF THE SCHOOL MONEY.

IT IS LIKE MONOPOLY. WE PAY YOU GUYS MONEY AS IF WE LANDED ON YOUR SPOT. WE DID NOT DO ANYTHING TO YOU TO BE TREATED LIKE THIS.

WE NATIVE STUDENTS OF NAPAIAK WERE HERE FIRST AND YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE THE MONEY THAT IS OURS. EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT FOR US BECAUSE OUR DAD'S AND MOM'S DID NOT MAKE MONEY THIS PAST SUMMER BECAUSE THERE WAS NO FISH. THERE WAS HARDLY NO FISH FOR US TO SELL. THERE IS PROBABLY NO MORE FISH FOR OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS IN THE COMING FUTURE BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE STOLE ALL OUR FISH IN THE OCEAN THAT WAS SUPPOSE TO COME BACK TO OUR KUSKOKWIN RIVER.

WE ARE POOR, BECAUSE OF THIS AND NOW YOU ARE STEALING OUR SCHOOL EDUCATION MONEY THAT WOULD MAKE US MORE POORER.

YOU SHOULD COME TO OUR VILLAGE AND VISIT AT OUR HOMES AND SCHOOL AND SEE HOW WE LIVE.

WE ARE TRYING OUR BEST TO DO GOOD IN SCHOOL, SO WE WILL HAVE A BETTER FUTURE WITH GOOD EDUCATION. BUT, IF YOU TAKE THE MONEY AWAY FROM OUR SCHOOL, WE WILL HAVE A SAD FUTURE. OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS CAN NOT SUFFER ANYMORE. BE KIND AND THOUGHTFUL OF US, SO WE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP OURSELVES LEAD GOOD LIVES WITH GOOD EDUCATION.

Jonathan Billy  
John Nink Shawna Patton  
Grace B. Billy

FROM: STUDENTS AT LKSD'S NAPAKIAK SCHOOL

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Aaqilah S. m qbt  | 26. Cheryl                    |
| 2. Ben Paul          | 27. Katrina Andrew            |
| 3. Kirkis Babb       | 28. Jackie P. Kay             |
| 4. Frank D. Edward   | 29. Nicole P. P. P.           |
| 5. Jelly Jung        | 30. Laura Jung - Ther A. H. e |
| 6. Clara Kachatok    | 31. _____                     |
| 7. Sophie Johnson    | 32. _____                     |
| 8. Valentino Jimmy   | 33. _____                     |
| 9. Scott Nelson      | 34. _____                     |
| 10. Crystal White    | 35. _____                     |
| 11. Candace Black    | 36. _____                     |
| 12. Melissa Alustak  | 37. _____                     |
| 13. Frank Andrew     | 38. _____                     |
| 14. Frank Alustak    | 39. _____                     |
| 15. Washline Parika  | 40. _____                     |
| 16. Frank Nelson     | 41. _____                     |
| 17. Curtis R.        | 42. _____                     |
| 18. Carolyn Black    | 43. _____                     |
| 19. Denise Kymozda   | 44. _____                     |
| 20. Anne E. Gray     | 45. _____                     |
| 21. Cynthia Alustak  | 46. _____                     |
| 22. Alexandria W. M. | 47. _____                     |
| 23. Lisa A. Billy    | 48. _____                     |
| 24. Evangelina Smart | 49. _____                     |
| 25. Miranda Zerita   | 50. _____                     |

March 20, 1998

Legislators,

I am a Mother of 4, Community Member, School Board Member, Techniques in Alcohol Management Instructor (Tam), and also a General Manager year round of a Restaurant & Lodge in the Denali Borough. I am writing this because I have great concerns for all of our children's future.

Our Borough gave the School District money in 1993-1994, before they were required to (\$230,000.00). Which in the long run, as you all should know, takes away that much in state money. We are close to meeting the cap that the Borough can give us. This does not mean that the cap should be lifted altogether. What it does mean is that our Borough is helping us meet the inflation rate that the state has refused to meet in the last ten years. As a School District, Community, and Borough we are taking on the state's responsibility, as have other School Districts, Communities, and Boroughs across the State for some time now. The way I understand it the Municipalities and School Districts across the state got together and made recommendations to you. Why isn't any one listening?

I feel it is time for all legislators and constituents to get together across the state and start standing united for education for the children. It is your responsibility to find out exactly what has been cut in all these Schools. In our Borough we have cut 4 positions just in the last two years, including 1 in the District office.

In February I felt we would see additional funding from the state for education, I no longer feel that way. I feel that you are wasting precious time and tax payer dollars on CSSB 36, when it looks like the Governor will veto it. Alternatives could be as simple as giving \$1000.00 more per unit and each year following a percentage increase for inflation. You could look at any future increase in the PFD amount and designate that for the education of our children. In all honesty who could really fight that position? It's free money that Alaskans get, and any increases should go to our children's education. I do not see anyone considering a cap on the PFD Check.

Please listen to everyone across the state and not just your own constituents, don't worry about your votes from your own area. Pay attention to all the state's children and you can not go wrong, I believe then you will get the votes you need. Please stand together, ultimately you are representing all of us across the state.

Thank you again for all the hours you give to us, and the time you put into reading this letter.

Edie Mercer  
P.O. Box 498  
Healy, AK. 99743-0498  
emercer@mail.denali.k12.ak.us  
907-683-2821-home  
907-683-2243-fax



Dear Senator or Representative;

Anchorage Schools have more extra curricular activities and have more sight-seeing or field trips than village students. Please don't vote or approve this Senate Bill 36. It will hurt the students, families, teachers, our vendors, etc. That includes vendors in Anchorage. There are more disadvantages about this bill.

Say no to SB 36!

Concerned parent,

~~Margherite~~ Bulin

LKSD

wasigluk ak

Dear Senator,

First, we have 74 students here in our village, a good number for school to educate them. Along with it, we have two villages estimated of quarter of a mile apart. The traveling condition during fall time and spring time is not adequate. There are smaller kids who needs to be educated. The boarding home is out of our minds due to, if the kids don't be comfortable at the place where they are staying. This situation is not suitable for their families especially when they are close, this will take them apart, from close relation. Our kids will be out of control, if they go into a different environment.

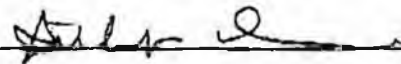
A parent,  
Lucy Kassel

Dear Senator

I Am Writing to Ask you to Vote against SB 36. This bill is trying to take too much money away from students in the Village for City kids. Let my grandchildren have school in the Village, not go to Anchorage.

Get the money for city kids from somewhere not the Village.

Sillufic Thomas



Dear Senator

Taking money from rural schools will make people lose their jobs, it will make schools close.

It will make kids go away for school, away from their villages and I will not send my children away for high school, because I have gone through trying to attend High School outside of my village, and I end up not finishing school at all?

I hope this letter will make you think of our children and grandchildren, and rural villages how hurt families will be.

SB 36 is a bad bill and it should not be a law?  
Please STOP IT NOW?

Queyana Fannie Brunk  
parent of 2 students

Dear Senator,

My name is Crystal Maxie and I am one of the students at Akiuk Memorial School. We have a wonderful school here. And I don't know what I would do if you closed our school down. By the way I don't know what my friends, cousins, and even strangers would do if you closed our schools down. And I am just learning Yup'ik and I don't want to stop learning it and I don't want to learn it anywhere else but my home village.

And if you close it down I will have to school at Anchorage away from my family away from my friends and away from my grandma. I know one thing out of all this if you were the one who had to leave the ones you love you wouldn't like it. Now you know how we feel. So please don't close our school's down.

Akiuk Memorial  
School at  
Kasiagluk  
Alaska

Sincerely,  
Crystal (Nayagay) Maxie

Dear Senator, I am so  
 worried if you close our  
 school I will have to go  
 to another and like leaving  
 to school I want like leaving  
 (home) → school  
 Lane Nugegaha. Andrews  
 24r (Grade 2+)  
 AKIUK school  
 Kasing Luk

Dear Senator

The school is very important now  
a days. Even go off to the college.

The students need teacher aides  
to help them learn both their native  
culture and the Western way.

The parents need the teacher aides  
and certified teachers, and mostly the  
school in the village, so I'm supporting  
SB36 to keep the school in our  
Villages

sincerely  
Anna Maria

Dear Senator:

I am writing to you about the SB36 Bill. I solely believe that it will cause major changes that will destroy our children's stable learning environment which is in our own schools. It will produce more educational problems and the whole situation will fall back to you and you will have a more drastic problem to deal with. If our kids go away to get there education, they will be open to Alcoholism, Drugs and crimes. I don't think SB36 is such a good Idea.

Native people (Alaskans) are being ripped/pulled to so many directions by the State Government and now you want to take what is ours to BIGGER and more equiped Urban Schools. We have such few options in our schools. --- please don't take that away from our children.

Karla Shoenberg

Dear Senator

Native children are important and need to go  
School too. Let them have their money.  
get money for city School from the city.

I don't like the idea of my children  
going to boarding School. I'm sure their  
grandparent's won't like them going to boarding  
school too. Please don't make my children go  
away for school. Families should live together  
and not be pulled apart by the School  
being closed

Thank you for listening

Lucy Brink

Dear Senator,

I am writing to ask you to vote  
against S.B.36. This Bill is trying  
to take too much money away from  
students in the Villages for City Kids.  
Let my grandchildren have school in  
the Village, not go to Anchorage.

Get the money for City Kids from  
somewhere, not the Villages.

Thank you for hearing me.

Emma Kalita



**SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
P.O. Box 226, Tok, Alaska 99780  
907 - 883-5151  
FAX: 907 - 883-5154

Rep. Mark Hanley  
Alaska State Legislature  
Room 507  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

MAR 18 1998

March 13, 1998

Re: School Foundation Funding and SB-36

Dear Representative Hanley,

You have been handed the most complicated, inequitable, and devious school funding bill in the history of school finances in the state of Alaska. The proponents of simplicity and equity have fallen short with SB-36.

The critical question for everyone concerned about public schools in Alaska is can SB-36 be amended and changed enough to achieve desired simplicity and equability. I doubt that it can in the short time left in this session. If you conclude that it cannot, I would request that you look at the current statute and increase the value of the foundation unit. This action will help every single district, urban and rural, across the entire state. Every school district in this state is under funded and hurting right now.

Again, Representative Hanley, please support and vote for simplicity and equity. In spite of what we hear today, I remember that the public school funding mechanism in current statute was promoted and praised for being simple and equitable at the time of its passage by public school people and a majority of the legislature.

Sincerely,

Darroll Hargraves, Superintendent

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Tanacross  
907-883-4391  
FAX: 907-883-4390

Itlin  
907-324-2104  
FAX: 907-324-2114

# United Utilities, Inc.

Affiliate of Unicom



Steve Hamlen  
President

March 13, 1998

MAR 18 1998

The Honorable Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 507  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hanley:

United Utilities, Inc. provides telecommunications services in 58 rural Alaskan communities. We are concerned with the unprecedented budget cuts to rural schools contained in SB 36. All of our citizens are deserving of legislative decisions that are carefully thought out and are based upon an impartial analysis of all the facts.

SB 36 would transfer approximately \$31 million from rural school districts to Anchorage. The Lower Kuskokwim School District, for example, has informed us that they would lose approximately \$8.4 million, 150 classified staff, and 60 teachers. These funding cuts are substantial and I am concerned for the ongoing ability of our native Alaskan children to receive a suitable education. I'm also concerned that this debate has turned into a contest of us versus them (urban versus rural). I've been told that a new funding formula is being proposed that includes factors, such as the ability to raise educational funds via property taxes, that are unrealistic and designed to favor one constituency over another.

Please carefully consider the merits of SB 36. Something is wrong here and it will be our native children who will be disadvantaged if it is not fixed. I wish that all of our legislators could visit our rural schools including our school in Hooper Bay and then compare these schools with any school in Anchorage. I have little doubt that anyone could walk away from these visits and suggest that the funding for our rural schools should be reduced.

Sincerely yours,



# LOWER YUKON SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 32089 • Mt. Village, Alaska 99632 • (907) 591-2411

Pamela VanWechel  
Superintendent

February 27, 1998

MAR 10 1998

Representative Mark Hanley  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol [MS 3100]  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Representative Hanley:

On behalf of the Lower Yukon School District, I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your time and attention when meeting with school representatives during the Legislative Fly-In. LYSD Liaison, Michael Prince, Board Member, Art Heckman, Superintendent, Pamela S. VanWechel and Business Manager, Dr. Carla Sheive represented LYSD and met with many legislators and / or their staff during that time.

We continue to stress how crucial it is to the welfare of rural Alaska's children for you to endorse and support a funding formula that does not "rob" funds from **any** district. Equally important is the appropriation the money desperately needed to fund our capital improvement projects, critical to meeting our student's needs.

LYSD has spent two hundred thousand dollars over the last four years developing Capital Improvement Plans, to place and keep our two most critical need's schools at the top of the Department of Education's list (i.e., Pilot Station #3, Kotlik #4). It is imperative that funds become available, soon. Enclosed, please find a copy of *The Tundra Drums* which contains two articles describing the "appalling" conditions at Pilot Station.

Again, I appeal to you as a Statesman representing this Great State of Alaska. Please cast your vote to ensure the best education possible for Alaska's most precious resource, our children . . . for ALL of Alaska's children!

Respectfully yours,

Michael Hunt  
LYSD Board Chairman

Atakanuk Emmonak Hooper Bay Kotlik Ma Hall Mt. Village Pilot Station Pitka's Point Russian Mission Scammon Bay Sheldon Point

# TUNDRA The Drums

The beat of the  
Yukon-Kuskokwim  
Delta



VOLUME 25 NUMBER 49 28 pages, one section

75¢ Bethel, Alaska

Thursday February 26, 1998

## Sewage threatens school safety

Problem expected to worsen as breakup approaches

By Oakley Cochran

The Tundra Drums

**PILOT STATION** — At Pilot Station Elementary School last week, 7- and 8-year-old boys showed off new acrobatics on a jungle gym just 100 feet away from an open sewer manhole containing raw sewage.

Meanwhile, a man wearing a gas mask hovered over the cordoned-off manhole holding a halogen lamp to light the way for his co-workers who was down in the hole trying to fix the school's sewage pump. The pump, which failed on Jan. 20, normally moves sewage from the nearly 40-year-old school up to a sewage lagoon less than a quarter of a mile away.

Because of the pump failure, the students, staff and faculty at the elementary school have been using honey buckets for the last six weeks.

These are little kids who don't know much about hygiene, said Pamela VanWechel, superintendent of the Lower Yukon School District.

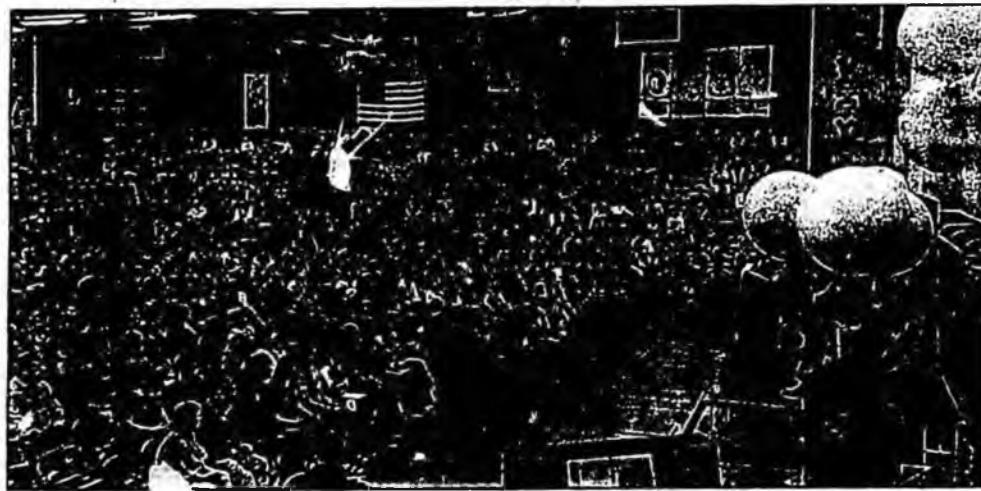
In one classroom which smelled of sewage, the students looked happy enough as they made green and purple Play-doh models of Eskimo dancers in anticipation of a weekend potlatch. But Pilot Station health aides warn about a hepatitis A outbreak, and point out the high incidence of strep throat, bronchitis, diarrhea and other illnesses at the elementary school.

In a normal February, the elementary school doesn't have a major problem with raw sewage — it's generally frozen. True, electrical problems in the past have caused pipes to freeze, and the sewage pump sometimes fails. Honey buckets are never far from being pressed into service. And this most recent pump failure has prompted teachers to shorten or move classes, parents to remove children from the school, and the school to shorten its daily operating hours — all in an effort to prevent more illnesses.

At any other school, these would be deemed minor measures.

By the spring breakup, the sanitation problem will get worse as raw sewage, carried by floodwaters, surrounds Pilot Station's "old town," which includes the elementary school and the homes of approximately 10 families. No amount of

See Sewage, Page 28



Aaron Spitzer/Tundra Drums

Students, teachers and community members flooded the BRHS gymnasium last Thursday to remember Josh Palacios and Ron Edwards. The event was followed by a one-year feast and a musical performance paying tribute to the slain principal and student.

## One year after Community gathers to honor Edwards, Palacios

By Aaron Spitzer

The Tundra Drums

As it did 12 months ago, the regular order of things at Bethel Regional High School halted Feb. 19 — this time not in chaos but with a carefully-orchestrated celebration of the lives of slain principal Ron Edwards and student Josh Palacios.

On a still, sunny Thursday, hundreds of students, teachers, parents and community members quietly filed into the high school gym to memorialize the two Bethel residents killed last year in the shooting rampage at the school.

Some wore solemn suits and dresses, and a few appeared in yellow, orange or red sashbands, identifying them as visitors to the school. Tears shined on faces young and old, but so did poignant smiles, as returning graduates and former staff reunited with friends and teachers, enveloping one another in comforting embraces.

Among the festive athletic-team banners decorating what on week-

ends becomes the Warrior Dome, a new sign hung from the rafters. "We honor our loved ones not by the way we grieve but by the way we live."

In the face of a monstrous tragedy, those are words which the school has made its motto, said Les Daenzer, who was called upon to serve as acting principal in the wake of the shooting.

Daenzer was one of several administrators who addressed the gathering, speaking on a raised stage at the gym's south end, flanked by huge yellow and white helium balloons which would later be released in memory of Palacios and Edwards.

Daenzer read an essay written for the occasion by student Andy Angstman, summing up what for many was a profound realization of the last year. "It's frightening how easily one can die," Angstman wrote. "It's frightening how easily one person can cause so much grief for so many."

Nowhere that day was grief

more evident than on the tear-stained face of Claudia Palacios, who spoke extemporaneously before the crowd, displaying the same disarming sincerity she has since her son was shot.

"Josh had a lot of focus—he had dreams," she said. "All of you can live those dreams for Josh. You have to."

"I don't think it's ever going to be the same for any of us. What happened a year ago today will affect us for the rest of our lives. There's always going to be something missing."

Palacios urged the students to reach out to one another, to prevent another Evan Ramsey from falling through the cracks.

"There's lots of kids like Evan and they need our support and they need our friendship," she said.

And she wondered aloud whether Ramsey — and, in turn, Edwards and her son — could have been saved if the troubled boy had been her own foster son, or had approached her for help. And so she

begged students to come to her with their problems.

"I don't care where I am — if you need something, call me. Those of you who know me know I mean that," she said.

Josh's father, Rodney Thomas, urged the assembly not to harbor hatred. He said he has stopped blaming Ramsey and urged the crowd to do likewise.

"I believe we should all find it in our hearts to forgive Evan Ramsey," he said.

He also gave special thanks to student Raul Sanchez and teacher Reyne Athanasia, who stayed by his mortally wounded son, facing down a gun-toting Ramsey as others fled for their lives.

It's that kind of courage and compassion that are desperately needed, said LKSD director of personnel Gary Baldwin. "If I have one hope, it is that we will continue to watch out for one another, to care for one another," he said. "I can't think of a better way to honor Josh and Ron."

## Lawsuit challenges limits on damage awards

The Associated Press

**ANCHORAGE** — A lawsuit was filed Feb. 17 in Bethel challenging the constitutionality of the state's new law that limits the amount of money a jury can award injured people.

The lawsuit attacks a law passed by the Legislature last year that restricts who can sue whom, when they can sue, and for how much. The law went into effect Aug. 7.

Because trial lawyers fought hard to block the law's passage, supporters of the measure aren't surprised by the challenge.

"It was just a matter of them waiting for the right case," said Rep. Brian Porter, R-Anchorage, a sponsor of the bill.

The lawsuit was filed by a team of attorneys on behalf of 16-year-old David "Buddy" Kutch Jr. of Bethel. He was paralyzed from the neck down in a snowmachine accident in December.

See Lawsuit, Page 17

# Sewage ...

From Page 1

pumping or of going home early will eradicate this problem.

According to Linda Minock, a mother of three toddlers, she can see toilet paper floating during breakup.

The sewage problem is due, quite simply, to gravity. If the geography of the village of Pilot Station is like a salad bowl, as school principal George Brackin explained, then the old town is the pool of salad dressing left at the bottom of the bowl. On the sides of the bowl is the rest of town, including the landfill, the sewage lagoon and a stream that swells in the spring, carrying a burden of sewage from the lagoon down to the old town and into the Yukon River.

One year during breakup, the town's rocking horses floated

uptown with fecal matter, Brackin said. On a beautiful spring day, he said, the single outdoor basketball court in Pilot Station will go unused, submerged under 1 1/2 feet of floodwater. And the outdoor wooden walkways between classrooms will hover just over the flood level.

"During the springtime we have to relocate the entire school — physically move it to the high school gym," said assistant superintendent Roger Adams. This is, however, a short-term solution that jeopardizes the education of both the elementary and high school students, he said.

The most obvious long-term solution to this problem is to close the school and relocate the classes.

Yet principal Brackin, who with his wife moved to Pilot Station last August, lives in fear of this solution — in such fear that workers at the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation were

unaware of the magnitude of the problem until recently, because no one had reported it.

Because there are few public spaces in this village of 547 residents, the concern is that the DEC will condemn the school and students won't have anywhere to go.

"Right now we're in a tough situation. We don't have any other buildings for the students," said Advisory School Board member Evan Nick. According to Nick, the city buildings don't have running water, so they can't be used as alternate classrooms. "And churches aren't for school," he said, echoing a widely-held village belief.

A new Pilot Station elementary school is the top priority for the Lower Yukon School District, and has been for a number of years, superintendent VanWechel said. The new school is third on the statewide legislative priority list for school replacement, VanWechel said. But according to Brackin, at present the earliest that the funding will come through is 2001.

"2001—that's too long," said ASB member Laurie Edwards.

"What is it going to take to get a new school faster? Who else can we call?" asked ASB member Susie Makally, concerned about village children being in an unsafe environment.

VanWechel is currently in Juneau trying to acquire money from the Legislature to fund the new school for Pilot Station, as well as to lobby for other Lower Yukon problems.

"Some of the legislators who haven't been in rural Alaska just don't understand the severity of the situation," she said.

"If we have a hepatitis A outbreak here, then the state officials will notice us," said journalism teacher Gail Hill. "And then it will be too late."



Oakley Cochran/Tundra Drums

Pilot Station "old town" resident Linda Minock, mother of three, stands outside her home last Friday. In the background is frozen sewage. In some places 13 feet deep, carried by a stream that flows by the elementary school. "In the spring, I can see toilet paper and stuff floating," Minock said.



Oakley Cochran/Tundra Drums

Pilot Station school principal George Brackin points down the manhole where men have been working to repair a broken sewage pump.

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## Illness rampant at sewage-plagued school

By Oakley Cochran

The Tundra Drums

**PILOT STATION**—The colder the better, said two Pilot Station health aides last week.

According to Molly Francis and Sheila Minock, when it's cold, the raw sewage around Pilot Station's "old town" is generally frozen — which is why there are typically fewer illnesses during the dead of winter than in spring and fall, when the sewage is fresh. The village elementary school and the homes of about 10 families are located in the old town, below the town's sewage lagoon.

Diseases resulting from the presence of raw sewage can include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, fatigue and possibly jaundice, according to Northern Testing Laboratories, an environmental consulting and testing firm with labs in Fairbanks and Anchorage. Viruses, including hepatitis, and bacteria causing cholera and other diseases can be transmitted through raw sewage.

According to Francis and Minock, the 127 students at the elementary school contract many more illnesses than students at the high school, which has 48 students and is located above the sewage lagoon. While a formal, investigative study has yet to be initiated, the Pilot Station health aides have compared the number of clinic visits from elementary students to those of high school students for four months last fall. The number of visits by elementary students appears disproportionately high.

For example, last fall elementary students visited the health clinic 38 times due to bronchitis — 23 visits occurred in October alone. Just two bronchitis-related visits were made during the four months by high school students. Elementary students went to the clinic 58 times due to diarrhea; two visits were made by high school students. And sore throats prompted 108 visits from elementary students, and 13 from high school students. Other illnesses suffered by the elementary school children have included pinkeye, viral common cold, skin problems and influenza. Faculty and staff have also been ill.

"I hope the governor learns about this. There's a chance of a hepatitis A outbreak," Minock said. She went on to say that the village had an outbreak of hepatitis in the 1960s, and several hepatitis A cases in the mid-1990s. There are at least 24 carriers of hepatitis B in the village right now, she said.

"I hate to see my grandkids going to school down there with the toilets not working good," Francis said.

MAR 19 1998

From:  
To:  
Subject:

Vicki Kaele *VK*  
*Representatives*  
SB36

*Phillips, Hanley & Theriault*

Please kill or radically modify SB 36. It will have a very negative affect on Southwestern Alaska, especially the schools. It has been estimated that 2 or 3 schools in the Lower Kuskokwim School District alone would close (there are 5 different districts here). There would be an estimated loss of 115 classified employees (mostly Alaskan Natives) and 65 certified positions. As it is, children in these rural school districts don't receive a comparable education to urban school districts. If SB 36 passes, rural schools will really be in trouble. LKSD's bilingual program will also have to be eliminated. The program has been making remarkable progress just in the last several years, rapidly developing curriculum materials, and working to preserve the Yup'ik Eskimo language and culture. Research shows that if children develop good literacy skills in their primary language, they learn better in a second language. Please don't allow this progress to be lost.

Southwestern Alaska has the highest employment rates in the state of Alaska, especially in the winter. The school districts are among the bush's larger employees. Removing \$8,400,000 from our economy, especially after a terrible fishing season, will be devastating.

In my opinion this process of taking resources from rural areas and placing them in urban areas is a travesty. Has the State forgotten where it came from? If this process continues the State will become more divided, perhaps literally. Anchorage seems quite happy taking the bush's money during the AFN conference and at other times when many Bush residents visit Anchorage. If this bill passes, perhaps the Bush will take its business to Seattle.

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	3/18/98	# of pages	1
To	<i>R. P. S. Theriault, Phillips, Hanley</i>	From	<i>Vicki Kaele</i>		
Co./Dept	<i>House of Represent.</i>	Co.			
Phone #	<i>2684/4863 4939/4887</i>	Phone #	<i>(907) 543-5770</i>		
Fax #	<i>3477/2418/2884</i>	Fax #			

P.O. Box 33  
Pelican, Alaska 99832  
March 18, 1998

MAR 19 1998

The Honorable Senator Jerry Mackie

Dear Senator Mackie:

I am writing concerning SB 36, the education funding rewrite. There is a need to reallocate funds and rewrite the funding formula but I agree with you that, "this is not the right way to do it." The inflated spending habits of single site districts deserve a closer look by the State. Some single site districts fail to use fiscal restraint and wise spending of education dollars received.

It was stated in the Southeast Empire, mid March edition 1998, "...the Pelican School District would lose 35% of its funding and would probably have to close." Where did this inaccurate statement come from? Pelican has 32 students grades K - 12.

According to the Single Site School District Consortium, Pelican would lose \$188,000 in funding with SB 36 and \$51,000 from Single site allocation. \$239,000 approximate total decline. Pelican's current budget is (roughly +/-) \$700,000. Take away \$239,000 for 32 students and that leaves approximately, \$461,000 for 32 students. The education system in Pelican can continue to provide a quality education for their students with a budget of \$461,000.

The October 1997 elections changed the leadership makeup of the Pelican School Board. Within the last few months, the current school board signed a new contract with a Superintendent, hiring at \$70,000 a year plus a full benefits package and a guaranteed pay increase to \$75,000 plus full benefits next year. The Supt. is the on site administrator overseeing 4 full time certified teachers, 4 full time classified employees, 1 part time classified employee and substitute employees.

Compare this with other larger school districts in Southeast Alaska. Larger districts cover an extensive geographic area and experience increased student enrollment. I am familiar with the Chatham School District, it is made up of several school sites within its district, each site will be impacted by SB 36, losing revenues and in anticipation of funding cuts, Chatham REAA is proceeding with a reduction in force (laying off teachers).

The Pelican City Council is discussing the prospect of changing from 1<sup>st</sup> class city status to 2<sup>nd</sup> class city status because of declining revenues from raw fish tax, sales tax, and forest receipts (timber tax). The mandate of a 1<sup>st</sup> class city to pay 4 mills (\$52,000) to schools is having a negative impact on providing basic services within city limits. The City will not meet its obligation to the schools. This community is experiencing economic difficulties. As a result, the City may be petitioning for 2<sup>nd</sup> class city status. The city may not be a single site school district. In an REAA, Pelican would receive funding closer to the level of SB 36.

In closing, a funding formula rewrite and closer scrutiny of education dollars is needed. Basic education is accountable to the future of our children and economy. And your continued emphasis on fiscal responsibility and appropriate decision making will guide the destiny of Alaska.

As a stakeholder in education: I am a Pelican High School graduate and a 25 year resident of Pelican, a parent with 4 children, and have an extended family with children in public education. My family and I know that you care about Alaska's rural residents and children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia Phillips

*Patricia Phillips*

Marganna Avugiak  
P.O. Box 50  
Cheformak, Alaska 99561  
March 19, 1998

Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

MAR 19 1998

Dear Representative Mr. Hanley,

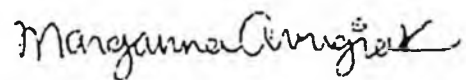
Hi! My name is Marganna Avugiak from Cheformak, Alaska. I am a sophomore here at Caputnguaq High School which is under the Lower Kuskokwim School District. The school that I am currently in is teaching me well as well as the other students.

The environment in the school is great and the teachers try their best to teach us. The students get along with the teachers and we try our best to learn. Right now everything is going fine. Students use all of the material and equipment in this school for learning, and are happy with the number of teachers that we have because they help us to understand what we need to learn.

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 36 because I believe that it will affect the jobs and the education that our school provides in our village. We do not want the bill to pass because if it does it will affect our school in many different ways. For example, there will be a decrease in the number of teachers, books and the amount of food, school maintenance, and student travel.

Based on my reasons stated above I would really appreciate it if you would not vote for  
Senate Bill 36. Thank You!

Sincerely,



Marganna Avugiak

Evelyn Agnus  
P.O. Box 88  
Cheformak, AK 99561  
3-17-98

Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley:


I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote **no** on SB 36, because I'm afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

If SB 36 is passed, younger students will be disappointed by not learning things they have to know. What if they have home schooling? Would their parents like it that way? Some of the students would transfer to other places to find a better school. But they wouldn't like leaving their families just for school.

In the future some rural students might receive poor education. For example, with fewer certified teachers and teacher aides, students' grades could become lower. This will hurt them if they plan to go to college in the future.

In schools there wouldn't be enough supplies like books, papers, pencils to help us learn. So please don't pass Senate Bill 36. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Evelyn Agnus

Magdalene Tunuchuk  
P.O. Box 57  
Chefornak, AK 99561  
3/17/98

Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801

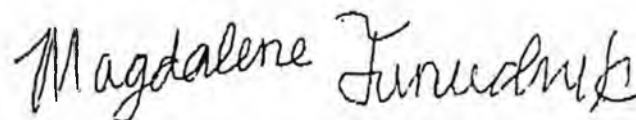
Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote no on SB 36 because I am afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

I want our schools to have enough money because I want to learn many things. If SB 36 is passed some teachers and teacher aides might lose their jobs. Some students might have to go to school at home or they might have to go to a boarding school. Some students would have to leave their families for a long time if the schools close.

Just because some students live in urban school districts does not mean that money should be taken away from rural school districts. So please vote no on SB 36. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Magdalene Tunuchuk

Sophie T. Wiseman  
P.O. Box 77  
Chefomak, AK 99561  
3/17/98

Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote **no** on SB 36 because I'm afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

I think some village schools will be closed. More students will have home schooling from school to school.

Schools might have less money to buy the school supplies and pay for activities. Teacher's aides might lose their jobs. Again please vote **no** on Senate Bill 36. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Sophie Wiseman*

Sophie T. Wiseman

Kimberly Abraham  
P.O. Box 34  
Cheformak, AK 99561  
3/18/98

Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote no on SB 36 because I am afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

I am thinking some village schools will close and most students will have home schooling. Some students might even transfer to other schools. If they transfer to other schools, they will hardly see their relatives.

I am also thinking that we will receive a poor education if SB 36 passes. Our schools will have less money for us to buy school supplies and to spend for activities. It might even reduce certified and classified teachers in rural schools. I am asking you to vote no. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*Kimberly Abraham*

Kimberly Abraham

Carmen L. Chagluak  
P.O. Box 15  
Chefornak, AK 99561  
3/17/98

Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote no on SB 36 because I am afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

The reason why I am asking you to vote is because I am afraid of losing our school. I am really afraid because if our school closed down students might have to have home schooling, or they might have to transfer to another school. Also if this happens some students might not want to go to school, or they might drop out. If SB 36 passes a lot of students will be hurt.

How would you feel if you were one of us, really scared and you don't want to loose your family by going to another school? If people vote no I will be happy and feel safe for our school.

Sincerely,

*Carmen L. Chagluak*

Carmen L. Chagluak

Jessica K. Lewis  
P.O. Box 2  
Chefornak, AK 99561  
3/17/98

Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capital, Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote no on SB 36 because I am afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

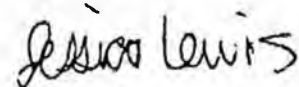
I am also afraid that schools might shut down. Students will be home-schooled or will be transferred to other places. If you transferred from a good village to a family you don't know, how would you feel?

If money is taken from rural schools and given to other urban schools, teachers will get fired. Some teachers are good explainers for tough problems. Those good teachers might get fired.

If you vote yes for SB 36, kids that were smart in math or reading might become a little dumber. If you have children who go to school, how would you and your children feel if they didn't get the best education they could?

Rural schools need the money, too; urban schools aren't the only ones. People in rural schools want to learn as much as they can. I think the people in Alaska should vote no to the Senate Bill 36.

Sincerely,



Jessica K. Lewis

**Wayne Buckles**

P.O. Box 46  
1 Red Last Turn Housing Road  
Chefornak, AK 99561-0046

Phone 867-8700  
Home Phone 867-8965  
Email wbuckles@cheformak.lkxd.schoolzone.net

March 18, 1998

Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote **NO** on SB 36 because I am afraid it would hurt my children's education as well as with the other children of rural Alaska.

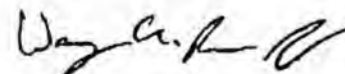
The reason why I am asking you to vote is because I am afraid of losing the school in my village. I am also afraid the other villages might lose their schools as well. If these schools closed down, the students in these schools would be forced into home schooling or to go to boarding schools. That would give them a harder time in getting a proper education and keep them in their own cultural settings at the same time. If that happens the students might not want to go to school and their parents might not want to or not be able to afford to send them away to boarding schools thus forcing some to drop out. If SB 36 passes a lot of students and their families would be hurt.

Another reason that I don't think that this bill should pass is that it would take jobs from rural villages where they are in dire need. A lot of the job bases of these communities are the schools. That would hurt the children in another way. Some of their parents wouldn't have jobs and that means that they would not have the money to get what they need at home. This bill would hurt more than just the education of rural Alaska but also rural Alaska's home lives as well.

Just think how you would feel if you were in our shoes. Really afraid of losing jobs and the education of your children? Really afraid of having to send your children to a boarding school? I don't know and couldn't know how you would feel. But I know how I feel. I would appreciate your help by voting **NO** on SB 36.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Wayne A. Buckles Jr.

Norman Tunuchuk  
PO Box 38  
Cheforanak, AK 99561  
3/18/98

Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representative  
State Capitol, Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I'm against Senate Bill 36. I'm asking you to vote no on Senate Bill 36 because I'm afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

If you vote yes, rural schools might lose a lot of money. Many things might happen to the students. Some students will have a home schooling and some students will move to other schools.

The students education might become poor if money for rural schools is reduced. Some schools will need school supplies for the students to use. The schools need also need extra-curricular activities and sports.

Many certified teacher's jobs will be lost, and a lot of classified jobs will be lost too. Please don't vote for Senate Bill 36.

Sincerely,

*Norman Tunuchuk*

Norman Tunuchuk

Rudy Kairaiuak Jr  
P.O. Box 31  
Chefornak, AK 99501  
3/18/98

Representative Mark Hanely  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Hanely

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote no on SB 36 because I'm afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

If this bill passes village schools could be closed. If some schools are closed some students will have home schooling. Some other students will transfer to other schools and leave their home.

Another reason is certified and classified teachers will lose their jobs. If that happens students will get a poor education and might not know as much as others. Residents that worked for the school will have a hard time paying bills when SB 36 is passed. Please do not vote for this bill

Sincerely,

*Rudy Kairaiuak Jr.*

Rudy Kairaiuak Jr

Willie Avugiak  
P.O. Box 62  
Cheformak, AK 99561  
3/17/98

Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 507  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mark Hanley,

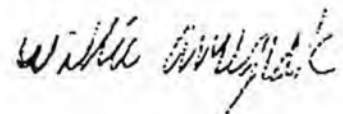
I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote no on SB 36 because I am afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

Not only will it hurt my education it will hurt others too. If we don't have the education we would like to have, we'll have move to other places to get it.

Here the school provides most of the jobs in this village. My parents and many other parents could lose there jobs if SB 36 is passed. If they lost their jobs they wouldn't provide as well for their children because they have to pay for other bills.

If you and the other representatives voted no then student from rural villages would get a good education. But if you vote yes people from rural villages might go to cites for school. When that happens I think the schools will be overcrowded.

Sincerely,



Willie Avugiak

Diana Lewis  
Box 7  
Chefornak, AK 99561  
3/17/98

Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 50 /  
Juneau, AK 99801

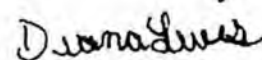
Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote **no** on **SB 36** because I'm afraid it will hurt my education in the near future.

Here are the following reasons: our school might not have enough money for me to go to school, other schools might even shut down, there won't be any money for school supplies, teachers will lose their jobs because there might not be enough money to pay them, and most of all I would also receive a poor education.

Please say no for the sake of children's future.

Sincerely,



Diana Lewis

Deborah D. M. Kusaiak  
P.O. Box 14  
Cheforanak, Alaska 99561  
3/17/98

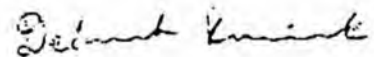
Representative Mark Hanley  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 507  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am against Senate Bill 36. I am asking you to vote **no** on SB 36, because I am afraid it will hurt my education in the near future. I'm afraid the schools might be closed for a long period of time because people might vote for Senate Bill 36.

I'm against SB 36 because schools help children learn more. If there's less money some of the teachers might loose their jobs, and the children will be hurt. So please say yes to the children, and say no to SB 36.

Sincerely,



Deborah D. M. Kusaiak



Lara Crome-Guthrie

MAR 20 1998

Box 17  
Kwigillingok, AK 99622

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March 17, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Hanley:

I am writing to urge you to fight Senate Bill 36, now before the House. I am a teacher in the Lower Kuskokwim School District. This bill would crush our district. Among other things, the bill would cut our budget by nearly 25%.


Such a cut would lead to the loss of over 100 classified positions in the district and over 60 certified positions. The cuts would most likely cause two or three schools to be closed. Further, the cuts would force us to end our bilingual program, which has won awards from the State of Alaska for its effectiveness in educating the children of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. These children depend on us for their education, and we depend on legislators like yourself to support us in our efforts. Please fight this bill.


Sincerely,


  
Lara Crome-Guthrie


# SB 36


## the hole in the education donut


 fails to address the real need for education - more funding

 proposes a funding formula based on flawed statistics

 runs rough shod over equity and fairness

 fails to meet the State's constitutional mandate to fund education

 pits school district against school district

 devastates education in rural areas

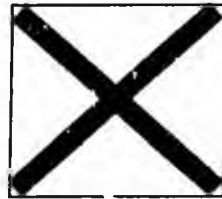


# VOTE NO!

## ON SENATE BILL 36



**YES**



**NO**

As devastating as these cuts will be, Skagway does not support fixing this bill at the expense of other rural communities who may suffer even more dire consequences. Under S.B. 36, the real losers are the children, and the only winners are the politicians.

The Skagway City School District will celebrate the school's 100th Anniversary in September 1998. This school has 100 years of continuous history of providing quality education to the community's children. How will this school continue to provide quality education, improve, and meet the new 2002 high school graduation requirements without enough money?

## SKAGWAY: A COMMUNITY UNDER LEGISLATIVE SIEGE

### The Effects of Senate Bill 36 on Skagway

Just one example of how small towns get hurt.

FY 98 Skagway School Budget **\$1,566,000**

FY 99 Budget under S.B. 36

The State would fund:	\$ 460,000
The City would fund:	\$ 840,000
Total school budget allowed would be:	\$1,300,000
Shortfall from FY 98 to FY 99 is:	\$ 266,000

Under S.B. 36 the community of Skagway would be prohibited by law from making up this shortfall. Here is how the funding shortfall would effect our school.

#### Budget Cuts:

Eliminate Superintendent (who also serves as principal)	Save \$ 70,000
Eliminate all extracurricular funds	Save \$ 70,000
Eliminate 3 teachers (1/4 of staff; average salary \$44,100/year)	\$ 126,000

#### Staff Remaining:

Superintendent/Principal	0	Music K-12	0
Kindergarten	1	English/Counselor	0
First/Second Grade	1	Math	1
Third/Fourth Grade	1	Science	1
Fifth/Sixth Grade	1	Social Studies	1
Seventh/Eighth Grade	1	Special Education	1
Technology K-12	0		

**AKIUK MEMORIAL SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Resolution # 98-03-15**

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SB-36 AN ACT RELATING TO THE  
 SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS** The AKIUK Memorial School Advisory Board have become aware of SB-36 via Legislative Bulletin, week 1, dated January 16, 1998 and radio reports; and

**WHEREAS** The AKIUK Memorial School Advisory Board realizes that we are approaching a new century beginning with the year 2000; and,

**WHEREAS** The new century, and advanced computer age, will require more advanced education for our Alaskan Native people; and,

**WHEREAS** SB-36 intends reduction of funding for Rural School Districts such as the Lower Kuskokwim School District where the reduction amount will be Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00); and,

**WHEREAS** the reduction will be detrimental to the education of our students in the Rural School Districts; and,

**WHEREAS** The AKIUK Memorial School Advisory Board being in charge and having a duty that our Alaskan Native youth receive quality education are in complete agreement with Governor Knowles objective that the Alaskan children come first and that all the children/students receive quality education; and,


**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That AKIUK Memorial School Advisory Board opposes SB-36 for the stated reasons and request that the bill is not passed, and that if the bill passes the Alaska State Legislature, the Governor vetoes it; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** that the copies of this resolution is sent to the following:

Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor of Alaska  
 Honorable Randy Phillips, Alaska State Senator  
 Honorable Gail Phillips, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
 Honorable Mike Miller, President of the Alaska Senate  
 Honorable Lyman Hoffman, Alaska Senator  
 Honorable Ivan M. Ivan, State Representative  
 Myron Naneng, President of Association of Village Council Presidents  
 Julie Kitka, President of Alaska Federation of Natives  
 Jeanine Kennedy, President of RurAL CAP  
 Steve Ginnis, Alaska Inter-Tribal Council  
 Dr. Shirley Holloway, Commissioner, State Department of Education

Passed and Adopted this 12 th day of March, 1998 on a duly called meeting of the Advisory School Board.

  
 Sam Twitchell, ASB Chairman

ATTEST:   
 Catherine Berlin, Secretary

WE THE UNDESIGNED OPPOSE SENATE BILL 36

Signature	Print	Signature	Print
<i>Russ G. Johnson</i>	Russ G. Johnson	<i>Nora Brink</i>	Nora Brink
<i>Catherine Berlin</i>	Catherine Berlin	<i>Emma Kalila</i>	Emma Kalila
<i>Paul D. Andrew</i>	Paul D. Andrew	<i>Alexandra Brink</i>	Alexandra Brink
<i>Howard R. Tinker</i>	Howard R. Tinker	<i>Sassa Brink</i>	Sassa Brink
<i>Selma Bair</i>	Selma Bair	<i>Anna Marie</i>	Anna Marie
<i>Diane Fournier</i>	Diane Fournier	<i>William E. Maxie</i>	WILLIAM E. MAXIE
<i>Christine Fournier</i>	Christine Fournier	<i>Agita A Berlin</i>	Agita A Berlin
<i>Andrew Lesh</i>	Andrew Lesh	<i>Roderick Demientieff</i>	RODERICK DEMIENTIEFF
<i>Palasia Tinker</i>	Palasia Tinker	<i>Martha Demientieff</i>	Martha Demientieff
<i>John Twitchell</i>	John Twitchell	<i>Henry Charles</i>	Henry Charles
<i>Alexandra White</i>	Alexandra White	<i>Mario Charles</i>	Mario Charles
<i>Irene M. Thomas</i>	Irene M. Thomas	<i>Agnes K Charles</i>	Agnes K Charles
<i>Fannie Brink</i>	Fannie Brink	<i>Molly C Oscar</i>	Molly C Oscar
<i>Lucy Kassel</i>	Lucy Kassel	<i>John A. Andrew</i>	John A. Andrew
<i>Dora Wassillie</i>	DORA WASSILLIE	<i>Tuanita Andrew</i>	Tuanita Andrew
<i>Nastasia Ewan</i>	Nastasia Ewan	<i>Paul C. Tommy</i>	Paul C. Tommy
<i>Mike Martin</i>	Mike Martin	<i>Annie Twitchell</i>	Annie Twitchell
<i>Maurice Nicholas</i>	Maurice Nicholas	<i>Maria Nicholas</i>	Maria Nicholas
<i>Naomi Tinker</i>	Naomi Tinker	<i>Evan J. Nicholas</i>	Evan J. Nicholas
<i>Annie K Andrew</i>	ANNIE K. ANDREW	<i>Paul Nicholas</i>	Paul Nicholas
<i>John P Slim</i>	John P Slim	<i>Sillafo Thomas</i>	Sillafo Thomas
<i>Yeako Slim</i>	Yeako Slim	<i>Martha M Keene</i>	MARTHA M KEENE
<i>George H. Keene Jr</i>	George H. Keene Jr	<i>George H. Keene Jr</i>	George H. Keene Jr.
<i>Lucy Brink</i>	Lucy Brink	<i>George I. Keene</i>	George I. Keene
<i>Grace Brink</i>	Grace Brink	<i>Victor P. Keene</i>	Victor P. Keene
<i>Nellie Slim</i>	Nellie Slim	<i>Bernette Berlin</i>	Bernette Berlin
<i>Kalita Slim</i>	Kalita Slim	<i>Daniel Berlin</i>	Daniel Berlin
<i>Mary Brink</i>	Mary Brink	<i>Agnes Berlin</i>	AGNES BERLIN
<i>Martha Brink</i>	Martha Brink	<i>Teddy Sipary</i>	Teddy Sipary

MAR 20 1998

March 16, 1998

Honorable House of Representative Member  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative:

SB36 passed the Senate and is now going to the House of Representatives for consideration. I am writing to ask you to vote no on this bill. This is the most detrimental bill for education that I have seen in my 18 year education career in Alaska. It truly takes Alaska a step backwards into the third world.

When my wife and I first came to rural Alaska in 1980 as teachers, we were impressed with the fact that although there were many challenges, the children and village lifestyle were ideal for raising and educating children of our own. Eighteen years later we are still in rural Alaska, in the same region, and will soon graduate our third daughter from rural Alaska schools. What has always kept us here was a community that valued education, a region that sponsored and worked hard to make life better for its citizens, and a state legislature that always seemed to keep education a priority. All of these truths have been shattered this year with the recent passage of SB36. Never have I seen a bill more detrimental to education than the one that was recently passed by some urban Republican politicians.

I wish most of those who voted in favor of this bill would come to rural Alaska and live, not just visit for a day or two, in order to understand the impact that the passing of SB36 will have on the poorest, rural students, most of them Alaska Natives. I find it ironic and hypocritical that some of those republicans who voted for SB36 are those who earlier stood in front of the TV camera and said we want to support "all the children of Alaska". SB36 rips the heart from rural Alaskan communities and would destroy any chance for success for many of the poorest children in our state. Why?

Schools in rural Alaska are more than buildings that serve to educate students. They are built in the very center of most rural communities, they serve as places to celebrate weddings, mourn the passing of loved ones, as well as cheer the athletic and academic competitors. Schools in rural Alaska are the movie theaters, the restaurants, the local hotels and the places where many students "hang-out" after school. I wonder if many of the urban legislators have even visited a rural school, gone to a community potluck, or sampled the warm village hospitality that comes from rural villages through the use of school facilities and school staffs.

When I hear that rural Alaska does not pay their share, it infuriates me. When I see some of the poorest parents working hard, volunteering, raising money for students to travel and experience some "normal" city activities in Anchorage; when I watch as family members struggle to make ends meet and still give time and energies to student scholarships, activities, and programs; when I see these honest, hard working citizens ship in staples from Anchorage and other big cities

in Alaska, shop in Anchorage catalogs, ship rural fish and food to process in Anchorage, I believe it is unkind for certain legislators to say they do not pay their share. Many of the businesses and organizations, including the legislature, exist because of rural Alaska. They should be thanking rural Alaskan citizens for supporting these businesses, buying from Anchorage businesses and bringing income and jobs into Anchorage through that monetary support. For legislators to say that rural Alaska does not contribute to education is a slap in the face to the hundreds of parents and community members who may not have the money that city dwellers do, but do all they can do to make things happen for children and schools, as well as their communities.

This bill would be the worst piece of legislation for education since the 1986 budget cuts enacted by Governor Sheffield. I remember that year, when we were forced to reduce our school district budget ten percent. Our school district had to cut many programs, and reduce the number of classified and teaching positions. It took nearly five years to build back the programs that were dismantled by those budget cuts. SB36 will do worse than that especially at the time when our students are showing better language scores and gains in math scores. We have just started working with Johns Hopkins University on piloting a "Success For All" reading program that is showing tremendous success. All this will come to a halt, because with SB36, Bering Strait School District will lose \$1.29 million dollars, and, in addition, if we do not spend at least 70% of the budget on instruction (a very rigid mandate for rural Alaska) we will lose another \$1.7 million. We would have to eliminate all district administration, all business and personnel services, the superintendent and school board services, the food service program, all student activities, all vocational education programs, all bilingual/bicultural programs, all counseling services, all library and media services, all principals, all instructional support services (like inservices and training for staff), all gifted/talented services, and 56% of special education services in order to adhere to this bill. Our entire long-range BSSD Strategic Plan would also be eliminated. In other words, we might as well shut the doors and turn out the lights for rural education.

Is this really what is best for **all** Alaska's children? I don't think so, and I do not believe the people of Alaska think so either. I know there are many House members who care about rural Alaska's children and urge you to vote against this piece of legislation. These children deserve to be represented. Their voices need to be heard. We would appreciate your help.

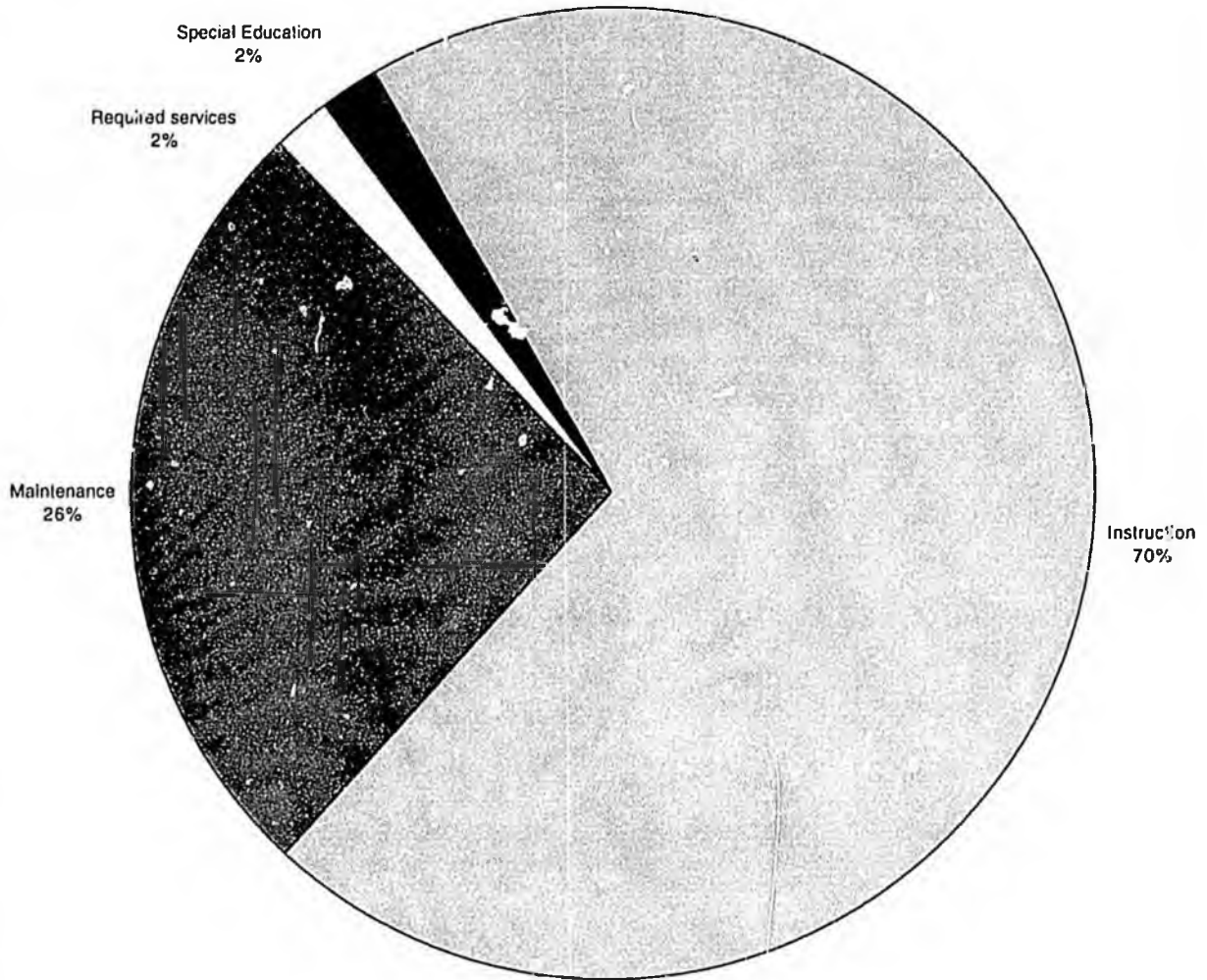
Sincerely,

David Bowling  
Superintendent

cc: Correspondence file

BERING STRAIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

FY98 BUDGET WITH 70% FOR INSTRUCTION\*



\* "INSTRUCTION" Includes:

Regular Instruction

Items Totally Eliminated

- Student Activities
- Vocational Education
- Gifted & Talented
- Instructional Support
- Bilingual/bicultural Instruction
- Counseling
- Library and Media Services
- All principals
- Food Service Program
- School Board
- Superintendent
- Business & Personnel
- District Administration
- 56% of Special Education



MAR 18 1998

March 13, 1998

Dear Legislatures:

Please do not take money from

our School District. We need an

education too. Our school won the

state "Battle of the Books."

Why don't you come to our school?

Jed Hendrickson

Central, Alaska

3rd Grade

Distributed by request  
Sen. Lincoln

SP2to

Sincerely,  
Handall Jones  
3rd Grade

ways.  
We use our resources in successfully

high school level. This proves  
"Battle of the Books" at the  
The state championship for the  
North School, in Centerville, Iowa

school. My school for

needed money from our

Please don't take

Dear Legislators

March 13 1998





March 13, 1998

To Legislatures:

Please do not take money from our School District.

Come to our School District

and see how we live in Central.

Joshua

2nd Grade

Central, Alaska