

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

1937

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1999 - 2000

FAX

Kodiak Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 1485
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Date April 15, 1999
Number of pages including cover sheet 4

To: Senator John Torgerson
Co-chair Senate Finance
Committee

Phone 907-465-2828
Fax Phone 907-465-4779
CC: _____

From: Wayne A. Stevens
Executive Director

email wayne@kodiak.org
Phone 907-486-5557
Fax Phone 907-486-7605

REMARKS:

- Urgent For your review Reply ASAP Please comment

Senator Torgerson, Attached is a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce. Please record our position in opposition to the proposed cut to Municipal Assistance and Revune Sharing as a part of the testimony for tonights Senate Finance Committee hearing

Respectfully, Wayne A. Stevens
Executive Director
Kodiak Chamber of Commerce

KODIAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESOLUTION 99-04-01

A resolution of the Board of Directors of the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce
Urging the House and Senate Finance Committees to continue funding the
Safe Communities/State Revenue Sharing Program

- WHEREAS**, the House Finance Committee has proposed eliminating the Safe Communities/State Revenue Sharing (SC/SRS) funding to reduce the state budget; and
- WHEREAS**, eliminating SC/SRS funding would reduce the state general fund budget expenditures, but in reality it will simply transfer the burden to residents by forcing municipalities to raise taxes or reduce local services; and
- WHEREAS**, this is not true budget cutting, but a blatant form of cost shifting as the State shifts its responsibilities and obligations to its citizens by way of local municipalities; and
- WHEREAS**, while it appears that this year's budget cut represents a small reduction to the current general fund operating budget, in reality it represents a cumulative reduction of more than 56 percent to local municipalities since 1980; and
- WHEREAS**, while the Legislature is cutting funding to local municipalities, they have just increased their per diem by 7 and 1/2 percent; and
- WHEREAS**, eliminating SC/SRS will have a devastating impact on small rural communities that depend on state shared revenues for their public services funding; and
- WHEREAS**, eliminating SC/SRS funding could accelerate the dissolving of municipal governments and thereby eliminate critical services upon which local residents rely; and
- WHEREAS**, eliminating SC/SRS funding would specifically impact the following Kodiak Island Borough Communities as follows:
- City of Akhiok, \$36,000 or 8 percent of their current annual general fund budget,
 - City of Larsen Bay, \$28,000 or 19 percent of their current annual general fund budget,
 - City of Old Harbor, \$35,000 or 19 percent of their current annual general fund budget,
 - City of Ouzinkie, \$33,000 or 15 percent of their current annual general fund budget,
 - City of Port Lions, \$38,000 or 24 percent of their current annual general fund budget,
 - City of Kodiak, \$560,000 or 5 percent of their current annual general fund budget,
 - Kodiak Island Borough, \$439,000 or 4 percent of their current annual general fund budget; and

WHEREAS, the state has cut SC/SRS nearly 70 percent in the last ten years, forcing local taxpayers to assume a larger share of school funding; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the Kodiak Island Borough established a tax cap and the only option to cover the shortfall is to reduce the Borough and the School District budgets; and

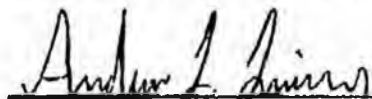
WHEREAS, SC/SRS is absolutely critical to the economy, education, health and safety of all Alaskans; so


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KODIAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE that the House and Senate Finance Committees be encouraged and urged to continue funding for the Safe Communities/State Revenue Sharing program.

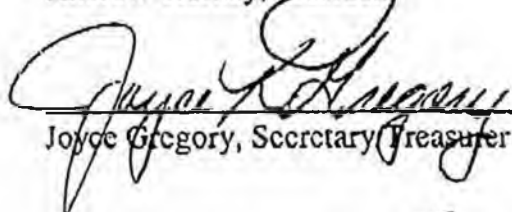
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KODIAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE that copies of this resolution be submitted to Governor Knowles, House Finance Committee Co-Chairs Representative Mulder and Representative Therriault, Senate Finance Committee Co-Chairs Senator Parnell and Senator Torgerson an Senator Mackie and Representative Austerman.

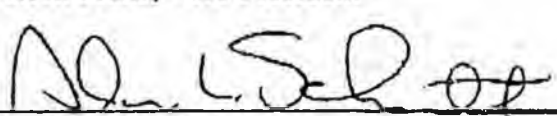
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KODIAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THIS 12TH DAY APRIL 1999.

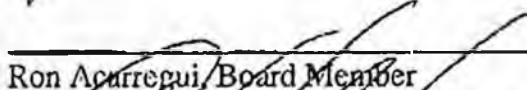
Board of Directors of the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce:


Andrew Tierney, President


Darren Franz, Vice President


Joyce Gregory, Secretary/Treasurer

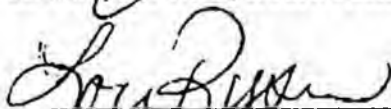

Alan Schmitt, Past President


Ron Acarregui, Board Member


Phil Cline, Board Member


Christopher Ellis, Board Member


Jane Peterson, Board Member


Lori Ryser, Board Member


Jerome Selby, Board Member

Kenneth Warner
Kenneth Warner, Board Member

John Whiddon
John Whiddon, Board Member

Pamela Foreman
Pamela Foreman, Kodiak Island Convention
and Visitors Bureau Representative

Edwin Kozak
Edwin Kozak, Kodiak Electric Association
Representative

Wayne A. Stevens
Wayne A. Stevens, Executive Director

ATTEST:

Genedine D. Taan
Genedine D. Taan, Office Administrator
Secretary to the Board of Directors



April 15, 1999

Dear Senate Finance Committee Member:

We are the staff and clients of the Teen Family Center, a drop-in center for pregnant and parenting teens located in the Zach Gordon Youth Center in Juneau, AK. The funding for our center is the result of a grant written collaboratively by many social service agencies in Juneau, including Tlingit and Haida, Public Health, REACH, and Healthy Families Juneau. Healthy Families Juneau currently manages, staffs, and supervises the activities at our center. We are writing to strongly oppose the proposed budget cuts for Healthy Families Alaska in the fiscal year 2000.

Teen pregnancy and teen parenting are not pleasant issues for the community to address. Often, teens who become pregnant and have children are made to feel ashamed, unsupported and discouraged. This discouragement can lead to a disengagement from social services, from much-needed education, and from healthy activities for their children. These are just a few of the reasons that the services provided by Healthy Families are so vital to teens who are facing parenthood. The strength-based model for developing healthy relationships between parents and their children used by Healthy Families encourages teens to build on the skills and strengths which they already possess, while also encouraging their desire for information and education about parenting. The home-visiting approach used by Healthy Families helps to ensure that vulnerable teen parents stay engaged in the many vital services they need, such as school/GED training, health care, and community activities.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this important matter. We are confident that you will help to ensure the health and future success of Alaska's families and children by supporting Healthy Families Alaska in the fiscal year 2000.

Sincerely,

Janine LeSalle
TFC Assistant

Bridget Eason
TFC Coordinator

Janice Seider
Teen Parent

Cristy Conrad - Teen Parent
April N. Johnson, Teen Parent

FROM :

PHONE NO. :

Apr. 15 1999 04:01PM P1

TO: Senate Finance Committee Members

FROM: The Teen Family Center, a program of Healthy Families Juneau

RE: Proposed reduction to statewide Healthy Families funding

DATE: April 15, 1999

We would like to request that this testimony be entered in the record for the Senate Finance Committee for the proposed Healthy Families Alaska budget for FY00. Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter. We appreciate your support.



Rick Mystrom,
Mayor

Municipality of Anchorage

Municipal Health and Human Services Commission

825 "L" Street

P.O. Box 196650 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650

<http://www.ci.anchorage.ak.us>



Telephone:
343-4619

April 15, 1999

Honorable John Torgerson
Senate Finance Committee
Juneau AK 99811

Dear Senator Torgerson;

As Chair of the Municipality of Anchorage Health & Human Services Commission, I am writing to voice our concerns about the proposed demise of revenue sharing and municipal support from the State.

We are opposed to this cut, which amounts to \$17 million of the Municipality of Anchorage's operating budget. The Mayor of Anchorage has stated that this budgetary gap would necessitate the elimination of many positions throughout the Municipality.

As it is anticipated that a cut of this magnitude would be shared across all of the departments within the city, we are especially concerned that positions abolished in the already skeleton staff of the Health and Human Services Department will jeopardize the public health of the State's largest aggregate of Alaskans. Food safety and sanitation, animal control, air quality, disease prevention and control, and the very infrastructure that enables the largest city in the State to uphold the standards of public health would be at risk.

Together, the Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska has worked to accomplish improvements in these areas. The State has acted as technical assistance for the services the city provides. Without the revenue sharing, Anchorage would need to look to the State for services, overloading an already scarce resource.

The Health & Human Services Commission is opposed to this proposed cut of revenue sharing funds. In the interest of public health, we hope you will see clear to keep this funding intact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathie Schumacher'.

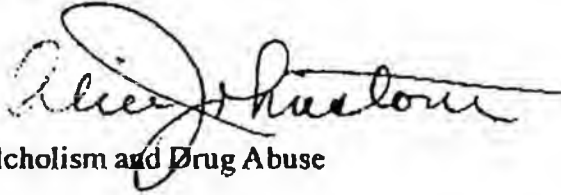
Cathie Schumacher, Chair

cc: Rick Mystrom, Mayor
Mary Good, Director

April 15, 1999

To: Senator John Torgerson

From: Alice Johnstone
Legislative Chair
Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse



Dear Senator Parnell,

I ask you to please restore funding to the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

The proposed cuts, which will result in drastic reduction in ADA personnel, will severely hamper the ability of the division to secure grants, (i.e. new dollars), from federal and private sources. The proposed reductions will reduce the number of dollars available for matching funds, required to demonstrate local concern in order to qualify for grants from many sources.

"Results Within Our Reach", the Alaska State plan for alcohol and drug abuse services has recently been released by the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. This plan was specifically drawn up in response to a legislative emphasis on outcomes in program development and for funding allocation. The proposed reductions in funding for both ADA administration and for grant programs would severely diminish them in their ability to measure results of treatment and prevention programs.

Over the last decade alcohol and drug treatment programs have had to respond to multiple slashes in their state grants. Already pared to the bone, with another cut in the next fiscal year treatment and prevention services will be forced to reduce payroll, curtail programs, and cut even more the hours they serve their habituated clients.

As I'm sure you know, alcoholism is a major medical problem in this state. Alcoholism affects not just individuals, but their spouses and their children, their co-workers, their employers, the police, hospitals, all aspects of the court system and almost every social service agency in the state. Every dollar spent for treatment and prevention of this devastating disease translates into substantial savings in policing, court systems, emergency room/hospital use and safe homes for battered and abused family members. Maximum funding of the treatment and prevention of alcoholism, a chronic, progressive and often fatal disease, should be a top priority for the legislature.

4/15/99

To: The Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Michele Girault 3740 Reflection Dr. Anchorage 99504

Dear Senators,

I'm writing on behalf of Duane Read, a man I am guardian for, who happens to have a developmental disability.

I know you all have had a difficult decisions to make in regards to balancing a budget this year. However I am dismayed that once again I must write to implore you to fund services for those who experience disabilities.

I am requesting that the Governors amount of 965,000 be FULLY FUNDED. Restoring the 361,000 you have chosen to cut will help community programs to maintain a level of solvency which makes a huge difference to those of us who must utilize these services.

The community programs in this state are excellent and the people they support some of the most needy.

PLEASE reconsider your decision. Restoring these funds will have a tremendous impact on those Alaskans who are most in need of our support.

Thanks you for your consideration!



3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone (907) 562-7380
Fax (907) 562-0438
Email: swamc@alaska.net
<http://www.alaska.net/~swamc>

April 15, 1999

The Honorable John Torgerson, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 516
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Torgerson:

The Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference President and Board of Directors have asked that I write to you regarding a very serious matter. Since the beginning of this year's legislative session, local government officials have watched with growing apprehension to see how the legislature would deal with the state budget crisis. Their apprehension was born of concern that the legislature might lack the political courage to accept, in some form, the Governor's budget recommendations and, instead, shift the unpleasant task of raising taxes to local government. From what we are now seeing, it appears that their concerns were justified. As you know, the House version of the budget completely eliminates State Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Funding.

By now, you have surely seen or heard all the facts, figures and reasons that demonstrate the folly of eliminating, or even reducing, state assistance to local governments. Therefore, we will not rehearse that litany to you again. Rather, we urgently appeal to you not to balance the state budget on the backs of our local governments. It is incomprehensible to us that many legislators do not seem to understand the implications of what the House Finance Committee has done. For virtually all of Alaska's cities and boroughs, the elimination of state assistance will mean increased property and/or sales taxes. Besides being regressive by nature, local property taxes are highly discriminatory because of the multitude of exemptions that exist. The already smoldering resentment that exists among many non-exempt property owners will be fanned into open flame if this presently unequal burden is increased even more. And to impose or increase local sales taxes will only mean that many rural Alaskans will purchase their goods and services from Anchorage, which has no sales tax. Small rural businesses will simply not be able to compete.

The Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference represents the interests of about 30,000 state residents who live in about 54 small communities stretching from Kodiak to Adak. Many of these communities are facing severe financial difficulties because of failed salmon runs and past reductions in state assistance. The services that they provide are basic and essential, yet some of them face the real possibility of disincorporation because they lack the resources to pay for such services.

At the beginning of the session, the Governor presented a responsible and workable plan to the Legislature to address the state's fiscal dilemma. Among other things, it would have provided a way to capture some of the money that is earned here and taken away tax-free by non-residents. For a while, we dared to hope that the Legislature would have the courage to follow his lead. Sadly, if the House Finance Committee action prevails, that will not be the case. We hope that the Senate will have the courage to find a way to balance the state budget without devastating local government.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen K. Vernon".

Glen K. Vernon
Executive Director

SWAMC

3300 Arctic Blvd., Suite 203
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 562-7380
Fax: (907) 562-0438

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

Date: April 15, 1999

To: Senator John Torgerson, Co-Chair,
Senate Finance Committee
Fax (907) 465-4779

Re: State Revenue Sharing & Safe Communities Funding

Sender: Glen K. Vernon
Executive Director

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE 2 PAGE(S), INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET. IF
YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL THE PAGES, PLEASE CALL (907) 562-7380.



ADOPTED AUGUST 1972

April 15, 1999

CITY of WRANGELL, ALASKA

INCORPORATED JUNE 15, 1903

BOX 531, 99929 (907) 874-2381
FAX: (907) 874-3952

Senator John Torgerson
State Capitol
Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Torgerson:

The City of Wrangell strongly opposes to the proposed budget cuts to the Municipal Revenue Sharing Programs. These funds have been decreasing annually forcing communities into raising taxes and eliminating services that are seriously needed. In 1992 Wrangell received almost 1.3 million from three separate sources from the state. If Municipal Revenue programs are eliminated, we will receive only the Timber Tax Revenue in the amount of \$100,000, resulting in a reduction of 1.2 million over the last 7 years. We currently have a 10 mil tax rate which generates about \$900,000 in property taxes and a 7% sales tax rate which generates about 1.6 million. We will be losing an amount more than all the property taxes we currently collect.

If the Legislature is going to keep eliminating revenue sources to communities, than you need to have the courage to eliminate mandated tax exemptions, such as Senior Citizens Property Tax, and let the communities have options on these without being mandated to do so.

Please understand the communities cannot take anymore cuts and we encourage you to maintain these programs.

Respectfully,

William B. Privett
Mayor



2700 Huffman Road
Anchorage, AK 99516

Phone (907) 345-8339
Toll Free 888 330-8339
Fax (907) 345-8370

freeone@alaskalife.net

April 15, 1999

The Honorable John Torgerson
Chairman, DOT Budget Subcommittee
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 514
Juneau, AK 99801

Faxed to 907 465-4779

Dear Mr. Torgerson:

Alaska Lining and Retrofit (ALR) has spent the past four months discussing with state agencies the use of our technology for upgrade to numerous underground storage tank (UST) systems owned and operated by the State of Alaska. We did so while bidding on state UST work that was solicited by three engineering firms under a state term contract administered by Dan Breeden with DOT. ALR was one of the UST contractors that supplied the engineering firms with costs to do the construction work included in the term contract. The reason for this letter is our belief that State resources are not being spent prudently with respect to this term contract.

ALR consistently saves our clients many thousands of dollars in upgrade costs by using the Armor Shield tank lining process to provide extended life to older tanks at remarkably reduced costs over conventional replacement methods. Tank lining typically saves our clients as much as 50% over the alternative of completely removing and replacing the tanks.

The Armor Shield process used by ALR is the only tank lining technology available that offers a UL listed product, and the process meets all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) standards. Armor Shield's 20-year warranty provided on the lined and cathodically protected tanks matches or beats what the rest of the tank industry provides on new tanks.

We have proposed upgrading the UST systems included under the term contract using our cost savings lining method. DOT allowed each individual state agency to determine their own approach to the upgrade of the UST systems. We have tried to work with all these agencies to educate them and save the state money on these upgrades by describing to each contact the advantages to the lining and in-place upgrade option and the numerous examples of where we have saved other clients money. Unfortunately, some of the agencies prefer to unnecessarily spend more money on new tank installations without much investigation into the merits of our cost savings approach. For example, the University of Alaska (Julie Redington 459-6874) is one agency contact with a UST system that could be easily upgraded in-place with substantial cost savings to the state.

Honorable John Torgerson, DOT Budget Committee

Budget Concerns, Page 2 of 2

Because of these reasons, and knowing the budget problems the state is currently having, we have submitted this letter for your review. We humbly request your input and attention in this matter. Thank you for this consideration and please call us if we can answer any questions or concerns you have with this information.

Sincerely,



Neil M. Cameron
President

c. Dan Breeden, DOT
Senator Lyda Green
Senator Loren Leman

April 15, 1999

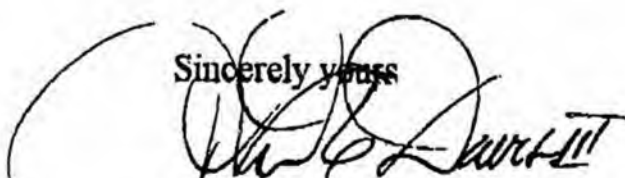
Mr. John Torgerson
Senate Finance Committee

Dear Mr. Torgerson,

I am in favor of full financial support for the University of Alaska by the legislature of our state..

By the way, perhaps one of the quickest ways to retain more high school students for the University of Alaska is to adopt a system used in other states: do not guarantee student loans to students studying at schools outside of our state.

Sincerely yours



Asa C. Davis III
3228 Wiley Post Loop
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

Founded in 1865
By William Booth
Paul A. Rader
General
David Edwards
Territorial Commander
Terry Griffin
Divisional Commander

The Salvation Army

CLITHEROE CENTER

1709 S. Bragaw, Suite B
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

OUTPATIENT

Telephone: (907) 276-2898 • Fax: (907) 279-8526

RESIDENTIAL

Telephone: (907) 243-1181 • Fax: (907) 248-7483



Legislative Affairs
Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senate Finance Committee Member:

We at the Salvation Army Clitheroe Center applaud your efforts to impose fiscal constraint upon the operating budget of the State of Alaska.

We agree that now is the time to prepare our communities for the inevitable decline in revenues due to the depletion of our oil production.

During the course of your deliberations please consider recent studies which conclusively demonstrate that every dollar spent on substance abuse treatment results in a minimum four (4) dollar savings in reduced costs to the state in health care, welfare, and criminal justice expenditures.

In light of this it would behoove the legislature to increase funding for substance abuse programs to save money. (The nonprofit sector operates at a fraction of the cost that state or for-profit programs require).

Thank you for your responsible approach to the future of our state.

Sheila M. Burke
Executive Director, SACC 276-2898

SALVATION ARMY CLITHEROE CENTER

Residential & Reflections
P. O. Box 190567
Anchorage, AK 99519
Phone (907) 243-1181
Fax (907) 248-7483

Detox
Point Woronzof
Anchorage, Alaska
Phone (907) 243-1181
Fax (907) 248-2751

Outpatient
1709 S. Bragaw Suite B
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone (907) 276-2898
Fax (907) 279-8526

CONFIDENTIAL FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DIRECTED TO: John Forgeson DATE: 4.12.99

AGENCY: _____ FAX NUMBER: 465.4779

FROM: Sheila Burke NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING FACE SHEET 2

MESSAGE: _____

PROHIBITION ON REDISCLOSURE: THIS NOTICE ACCOMPANIES A DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING A CLIENT IN ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT, MADE TO YOU WITH THE CONSENT OF SUCH CLIENT. THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN DISCLOSED TO YOU FROM RECORDS PROTECTED BY FEDERAL CONFIDENTIALITY RULES 42 CFR PART 2. THE FEDERAL RULES PROHIBIT YOU FROM MAKING ANY FURTHER DISCLOSURE OF THIS INFORMATION UNLESS FURTHER DISCLOSURE IS EXPRESSLY PERMITTED BY 42 CFR PART 2. A GENERAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE RELEASE OF MEDICAL OR OTHER INFORMATION IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE FEDERAL RULES RESTRICT ANY USE OF THE INFORMATION TO CRIMINALLY INVESTIGATE OR PROSECUTE ANY ALCOHOL OR DRUG ABUSE PATIENT.

WARNING: THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE IS LEGALLY PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY NAMED ABOVE. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HERBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, OR COPY OF THIS FACSIMILE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS FACSIMILE IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE, AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE VIA THE MAIL. THANK YOU.

Cheryl Mann
P. O. Box 240434
Anchorage, Alaska 99524

14, April, 1999

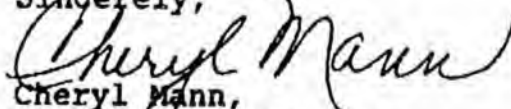
Dear Senator,

I am writing to ask for your support in restoring the proposed cuts that would decimate the provision of alcohol and other drug abuse services for the people of Alaska. It is grossly unfair that the majority of the proposed cuts to the Department of Health and Social Services fall almost entirely on the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Further, they would seriously threaten both the direct and indirect delivery of substance abuse services to the families and communities who need them. Cutting more than 60% of the budget for ADA would result in losing more than half the staff and their ability to monitor state and federal grants. Thus, quality assurance would be greatly reduced and federal matching funds will be lost. And, Alaska was one of the few states to receive a federal prevention grant last year. Why are we thinking about eliminating the programs that can help our children have a better future?

These proposed cuts would eliminate the progress that we have made in the field in the last several years as well as jeopardize drug and alcohol service delivery. The Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, a citizen group, worked for more than a year to develop a statewide Outcomes based plan using the Friedman model supported by the Legislature. Through collaboration with a variety of groups statewide we have developed what has been lauded as a model plan. It is very disappointing to think that this work was for nothing and that services are going to be arbitrarily cut before being able to demonstrate that the plan provides the framework for more effective and efficient delivery. Additionally, I teach at UAA and everyday I observe students come through my classroom who are changing their lives and those of their families to create better futures for themselves and for Alaska as a result of their participation in alcohol and drug treatment programs. What better demonstration can we have that these services work and benefit the state?

Please reduce these draconian cuts and acknowledge that solving our budget shortfall should not be done on the backs of individuals and families with substance abuse problems that can, and are, being treated.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Mann,
Chair, Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Allen E. Klein
Virginia B. Ragle
P.O. Box 240633
Douglas, Alaska 99824
(907) 586-3157 (h) (907) 465-3600 (w)

April 15, 1999

Honorable Sean Parnell and John Torgerson
Co-Chairs, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Re: Child care grants

Dear Co-Chairs Parnell and Torgerson,
and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

We are writing to urge the Senate Finance Committee to fund the child care grant program at at least its current level.

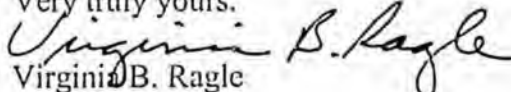
We understand that the Committee is considering transferring money that has historically been allocated to child care grants into the direct assistance program for low income families. The assistance program is certainly a valuable and worthy program that makes it possible for many low income families to obtain quality child care for their children. However, the grant program augments the direct assistance program, and also helps to provide better quality child care for all Alaskan children, regardless of whether they come from low income families or from middle income families that do not qualify for assistance.

Having used both a small in-home day care and a larger child care center, it is our experience that both charge "tuition" at a level the market will bear. Still, tuition is often not enough to cover all the expenses incurred in providing quality child care and preschool education. For example, at the Juneau Montessori Center that our son attends, some of the costs that are not covered by tuition are borne by parents and staff, who contribute hundreds of hours of volunteer work for fundraising and for maintaining the facility. A few parents who are financially able contribute cash, as well as volunteer time. A small but significant source of the school's funding is the State's grant program.

The approximately \$9,000 that the school anticipates receiving from the grant program provides staffing that benefits all of the school's children. Given the already-high level of volunteerism at the school, it is not likely that the school could replace the grant money through additional fundraising efforts. If the school is forced to raise tuition, clearly children of low income families will suffer first, and most. If a raise in tuition makes the school unaffordable and financially nonviable, then all of the children and families will suffer. Families that use other quality child care centers and licensed day care facilities around the state are at similar risk if this program is eliminated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,


Virginia B. Ragle

cc: Honorable Drue Pearce, President
Alaska State Senate

Margaret E. Holland
13232 Sean Circle
Anchorage, AK 99516

April 15, 1999

Senator John Torgerson
Co-Chair Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

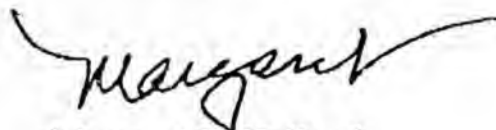
Dear Senator Torgerson:

The House Finance Committee has approved HB 50, next year's operating budget, which included a reduction in general funds support for the State's trade offices in Japan and Korea. The reduction in funding of \$350,000 is over half of the Division of Trade and Development's expenditures for the two offices.

Personally, I think these budget cuts significantly undermine the economic development and international trade mission of the DTD. The trade offices in Japan and Korea have been very successful in opening markets to Alaska businesses, and should be fully funded. For a state that looks to the Pacific Rim nations for business opportunities, decimating the trade offices does not make sense.

I hope you will work to restore this funding.

Sincerely,



Margaret E. Holland

KENNETH W. MOSS, M.D.

DIPLOMATE AMERICAN BOARD
OF PEDIATRICS
FFI LOW AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF PEDIATRICSPEDIATRICS
1600 GLACIER AVENUE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801PHONE
(907) 586-1542
FAX 586-1849
HOSP. 586-2611

4/15/99

Members, Senate Finance Committee:

Re: Healthy Family
Programs, Alaska

Dear Senators:

I've learned that the proposal
is to cut the budget for the
Healthy Family Program by 23%.

Though I appreciate the need
to limit spending, I hope you will
find it in your hearts not
to cut this program.

As a practicing pediatrician
I've seen this program work
well, and give a great deal
of positive opportunities for
families and children.

It is money well spent, and
a good investment.

Thank you

Kenneth W. Moss MD

Newhalen City Council

P.O. Box 103
Niamna, Alaska 99606
Phone (907) 571-1226

April 15, 1999

to: Senator Parnell and Senator Torgerson:

from: Jerry Gay Newhalen City Clerk

Please find following a draft council resolution that in all probability will be passed at the next council meeting. It is followed by a list of voters supporting the resolution. You might note that all of the council members and the Mayor have signed their support.

I hope this will do some good in influencing the finance committee to restore our revenue share funding. The city council plans to testify by teleconference at 6:00 tonight.

thank you for your efforts.

City of Newhalen

P.O. Box 165

Newhalen, Alaska 99606

(907) 571-1226 Fax (907) 571-1540

RESOLUTION 99-12

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING AT THE FY 99 LEVEL FOR THE STATE REVENUE SHARING AND MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, The House Finance Committee has proposed the complete elimination of the State Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Programs, and

WHEREAS, the Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Programs have already been cut by approximately 70 percent over the past 10 years, and

WHEREAS, budget cuts of this magnitude and significance to the health, safety, and welfare of Alaska's people should be done within the framework of a comprehensive, coherent, and publicly accepted long term fiscal plan, and

WHEREAS, municipalities should not be targeted again for program cuts because they provide the most basic of public services including police, fire, roads, water and sewer, solid waste, emergency medical, and schools, and

WHEREAS, 75 cities in Alaska rely on these programs for 20% of general fund revenues and 25 cities rely on them for over 40% of their revenues, and

WHEREAS, elimination of the Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Programs simply shifts the burden for providing basic public services to local taxpayers and we can expect either drastic reductions in services or increased local taxes, and

WHEREAS, elimination of these programs will act as a further disincentive for the formation of new boroughs and will likely result in the dissolution of many cities, and

WHEREAS, elimination of these programs disproportionately impacts the poorest and small municipalities because they have limited options available to them in terms of raising or levying new taxes, and

WHEREAS, elimination of these programs will further widen the gap between the "haves" and "have nots" in Alaska, and

WHEREAS, all states in the United States share revenues with municipalities within their boundaries, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hickel and others have argued that statehood itself was premised upon the continued sharing of revenues derived from commonly held natural resources because the framers understood that local taxes would never be sufficient to provide for adequate public services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newhalen City Council has found that further cuts to the State Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Programs are not in the public interest and would be poor and ill-advised public policy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council is strongly opposed to any further cuts to the programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council hereby urges the Alaska Legislature to continue to fund these programs at FY 99 levels.

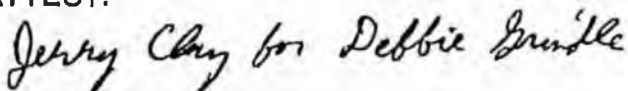
PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Newhalen City Council this 20th day of April, 1999.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

Wassie Balluta Sr., Mayor

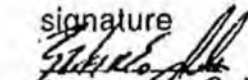
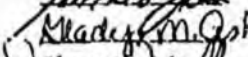
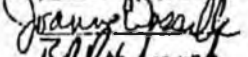
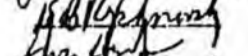

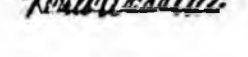


ATTEST:



Debbie Grindle, City Clerk

We, the undersigned residents of Newhalen, Alaska, do hereby urge our City Councilmen to approve the draft resolution described above at their next meeting on April 20, 1999.

signature	printed name	date of signature	residence address	p.o. box #
	Zacher Baker	4-6-99	Newhalen	51
	Gladys M. Askock	4-6-99	Newhalen	225
	Joanne Wassile	4-6-99	Newhalen	53
	Bob Rycknowsky	4-6-99	Newhalen	114
	George Horabarger	4-6-99	Newhalen	113
	Pamela Brundage	4-6-99	Newhalen	46

page 3

465-9779

FAX

Date 04/16/99

Number of pages including cover sheet 2

TO: Members
HBA of Juneau

465-4925

FROM: Susan Ogden
HBA of Juneau

Phone
Fax Phone

Phone 789-6602
Fax Phone 789-7609

CC:

REMARKS: Urgent For your review Reply ASAP Please Comment

URGENT! LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

The Legislature is attempting approval of SB113 which makes it mandatory for Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to obtain legislative approval before issuing any bonds. All home mortgage payments could be appropriated by the legislature instead of paying off the bonds if this legislation passes. This appears to be a way to strangle the operations of AHFC. Please complete the following Public Opinion Message (POM) with one of the following 5 messages or you can submit a message of your own opposing this legislation.

- 1) Mandatory legislative approval of AHFC to issue any bonds will hamper their daily operations. They are successful operating currently! Do not support!
- 2) This appears to be a way to strangle the operations of AHFC in order to raid their assets in the future! Do not support!
- 3) All home mortgage payments could be appropriated by the legislature instead of paying off the bonds if this legislation passes! Do not support!
- 4) Every activity of AHFC would have to have legislative approval if this legislation passes? What is broken? Do not support!
- 5) Interest rates will rise on AHFC mortgage programs if this legislation passes. We don't need that right now! Do not support!

April 15, 1999

Senator John Torgerson, Co-chair Fax: 465-4779
Senate Finance Committee

RE: Fund land use planning

Dear Senator Torgerson:

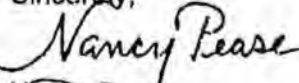
The latest draft of the Senate budget has a misguided cut of \$726,000 for the DNR Division of Land, which would specifically eliminate statewide land use planning. I urge you to restore the funding to the Division of Land for land use planning.

It is self-defeating to cut revenue-generating functions of state government. Without state land use planning, resource development such as forestry and large mines and tourist destination development will grind to a halt on state land. **The planning costs that the Senate is presuming to save will soon be offset by lost revenue from stalled resource development on state land.**

For example, without the Yakataga Area Plan, lawsuits would have prevented the University from harvesting millions of dollars of timber along the Gulf coast. Without the Tanana Basin Area Plan, the lucrative Fort Knox gold mine could not have proceeded. Without the Division of Land planning, local governments such as the Kenai Peninsula Borough cannot receive their municipal entitlement acreage to help develop their local tax bases.

Without Division of Land planning, random sales and scattered settlement of state lands could create impossible demands for government services (e.g. schools to serve 10 kids, forest fire and trooper protection, etc.). **Again, the costs of NOT planning for state lands will outweigh the savings.**

Count me among the responsible citizens who are willing to pay taxes to fund important government services, like planning for the use of 105 million acres of land owned by this state.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pease



Southeast Alaska Seiners

April 15, 1999

**Senator John Torgerson
CoChair, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Rm 518
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182**

Dear Senator Torgerson,

I am writing in behalf of Southeast Alaska Seiners (SEAS), a membership organization representing commercial fishermen, to express concern over the substantial budget cuts proposed for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Department has been the target of very substantial budget reductions over the last eight years that threaten its ability to manage the fish and game resources of our state in compliance with the sustained yield principle of our Constitution. The commercial fishing industry, which provides employment for large numbers of Alaskans and generates tax revenues far in excess of its management costs, suffers as the operations of the Department are restricted. Therefore, SEAS urges you use the budget cuts proposed by the House of Representatives. These cuts provide a significant contribution to the Legislature's efforts to reduce spending while minimizing the impact on the thousands of Alaskans who rely on the Department of Fish and Game's stewardship of Alaska's renewable resources.

Since 1990, the Legislature has reduced the budget of the ADF&G by over \$6.1 million. Steady erosion from inflation has compounded these cuts and impacted the ability of the Department to manage the fishery resources of our state. With management activities curtailed, Alaskans suffer since the Department must be increasingly conservative as a consequence of its inability to gather necessary information on our fish stocks. In the past several years, the Department has had to curtail stock assessment work on sockeye salmon, King crab, and herring in Southeast Alaska. We have little information on groundfish or shrimp. Information that leads to further beneficial, income producing harvests requires general fund expenditures.

With fishermen paying more into the general fund than the current costs of management, the cuts to the budget that affect our industry should be restrained. After all, we cannot pay taxes on fish that a budget strapped ADF&G can't permit us to harvest. The House version of the budget adds \$412 of reductions to the \$6.1 million

ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF

■ KING COVE ■ SAND POINT ■ AKUTAN ■ COLD BAY ■ FALSE PASS ■ NELSON LAGOON

April 15, 1999

Senator John Torgerson
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol – Rm. 516
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

by fax: 465-4779

Dear Senator Torgerson:

I am writing this letter in support of the full restitution of funding for the Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Program. The recent action taken by the House to balance the budget on the backs of local government is unacceptable. You are well aware of the importance of the RS/SC money to communities of all sizes in this state. We have seen these funds diminishing since 1986 to the point that for many small, rural communities, they are the equivalent of life support in a hospital.

Raising taxes and increasing fees at a local level to make up for the loss of this funding is, in many cases, impossible. On the one hand there is just not enough tax base to do it, and on the other hand, for those of us that do tax, an increase in taxes may push us over the brink. The question here is not whether municipalities are sharing the burden of the state's loss of revenue, but whether local government can be viable within the state of Alaska. Restitution of less than the full amount of funding accomplishes nothing.

Sincerely,



Robert S. Juettner
Administrator

RSJ:emn

CLERK/PLANNER
P.O. BOX 349
SAND POINT, AK 99061
(907) 383-2699
(907) 303-3496 FAX
e-mail: AEBCLERK@aol.com

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR
1600 "A" STREET, SUITE 103
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-5146
(907) 274-7555
(907) 276-7569 FAX
e-mail: aoboro@gci.net

FINANCE DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 49
KING COVE, ALASKA 99612
(907) 497-2588
(907) 497-2386 FAX

RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
211 4TH STREET, SUITE 314
JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 586-6655
(907) 586-6644 FAX
e-mail: gmerri1@ptialaska.net
e-mail: belth@ptialaska.net

To: The Senate Finance Committee
Re: The Healthy Families Program

April 15, 1999

My daughter, Maia Singhmor, had abuse problems. After a serious abusive incident, while pregnant with her first child, she went to the doctor and make sure that her baby was not injured. The doctor referred her to The Healthy Families Program. Kim Tolbert has been God Sent. She is a wonderful addition to the Healthy Families program.

Healthy Families has continually been a support group and learning tool for the growth and mental health of my now two grandchildren, and their mother.

Healthy Families taught us the importance of getting at the childrens level, on the floor. They loan out special toys of learning and teach families how to use them, handing out homework to the parents that give guidelines to good parenting skills.

Without Healthy Families my grandchildrens lives would not nearly be as complete, nor would they be as advanced as they are now in attitude and scholarly.

Healthy Families would be sorely missed if you were to cut their Program. There are so many woman out there abused, confused, lost and ready to give up who need this program.

There are young parents that haven't a clue how to raise children for whom The Healthy Families Program is a vital source of information.

Healthy Families also gets a 'birdseye view' of how the children are being treated in their homes as people let them in more willingly than any other organization. Healthy Families works hand in hand with investigators of abuse.

Healthy Families helps our Generation to Come, cutting this program could be cutting their throat.

Please don't,

Debora Chrisman
925 S. Chugach St.
Palmer AK 99645
(907) 746-4003



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on tobacco settlement funds, dated 4-15-99
bill # / subject

Balancing the budget now and into the future is best done by enhancing revenues, NOT by cutting essential services and programs.

Being proactive is securing the future by spending now in the right ways and in the right places.

Just one way to do this is to increase the funding for tobacco control and prevention and to dedicate a substantial portion of the tobacco settlement money to this program.

The tobacco settlement only pays for expenses incurred in the past, NOT in the future. We can reduce these future expenditures by reducing smoking in the future. Please be proactive not reactive.

Signed:

Nathan O. Bailey

Testifier

Self, and Tobacco Alliance of The Peninsula

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 3337 Kenai 99611

Address

907 283 3984

Phone number

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

~~Dear Members:~~

I have looked over the report on the KPB Fiscal Planning Session and sincerely wish my business would have allowed me to attend. I have listed below the comments I would have made.

1. Education—we cannot simply throw money at anything labeled education and expect our children to obtain what they need. I feel that the word education has had a suffix added to it in today's definition—if it says education—it means we cannot not find it. This is thinking that simply doesn't serve anyone. There are many things in this world that I could learn but they would not be of any benefit to me. I want to see our children receive an education that will help them in their life. They need to know how to do everyday things like balance a checkbook, budget for a family, comparison shop so that they can get the most for their dollar. They need to learn to be productive and responsible citizens. We can provide opportunities for our children to learn, we cannot make them learn. We need to make our children understand that it is their responsibility to take advantage of the educational opportunities that they are being afforded. We as parents, legislatures and teachers are doing children an injustice if we do not expect them to achieve. A teacher cannot spend all of his or her time trying to just keep order in a classroom and be expected to "teach" also. I have worked in our schools. I know how much time and effort a few disruptive students can demand and how much their behavior deprives the students who really are wanting to learn. We need to find a way to deal with this problem. Our schools need to return to being an honored place of order and study opportunities. A place to prepare our children for life and to give them the tools that they will need to pursue their dreams.

I do not care how many computers you have access to or can operate—they can never take the place of a solid knowledge of the basics of math, spelling, language arts, history or science. Our society seems to think that with a computer you no longer need to know how to spell (just use your spellcheck) and that the spreadsheet will do your math computations for you. The computer will spit out a spellchecked letter that is misspelled and grammatically incorrect and a spreadsheet that does not reflect the true figures at all. We have to know what and why we are putting information into that PC. Thank God they can not replace humans. They are simply a helper.

I am so grateful for my junior high math and English teachers. They taught me the principles I needed to know to further my education—both in school and in the world. These great teachers let me know that they cared not only about the knowledge we gained but, also the people we became. You cannot separate the two. Knowledge can be used to cause harm as well as good. We all need to put some effort into character building by example and by rewarding. Educational programs need to be scrutinized for value as much if not more than any other government paid for programs.

2. Tourism—We need to have sufficient facilities and safe roadways. If we want people to come and visit our beautiful state we have to provide a safe and useable road system and camping areas. If we want to show them that we respect our state and expect them to also, we need to maintain these roadways and camping areas and to penalize anyone who trashes them. I know that the overcrowding in our campgrounds and the congestion of our narrow roads has been a determining factor in having tourists decide not to return to our state. We cannot afford to chase away our "repeat customers". Our highway department needs to stay at least as manned as it is. We need the roads we already have and we need more.

In our bid for tourism, please do not forget the locals. We need places to walk, ride horses, fish, hike and camp also. We need to utilize our roadway sides and I am including a letter I have sent on to DOT with some ideas for this utilization.

3. Privatization—I am totally against it. I know it looks cheaper on the surface but, we would pay later on. We have essential services that need to be performed. Services that government was set up to perform. National defence, national transportation and national communication. Government on a local as well as a national level has far exceeded these parameters. Our roadways qualify as an essential government service and they need to be maintained. If the state were to sell off all of its equipment and give the work to a contractor and that contractor finds that he cannot fulfill his obligation for the agreed upon price the state is over a barrel. To keep our roads open more money would have to be found. I feel we would be in much less control of the situation than we are now and would receive less for our money in the long run. Here also, we have the right and the obligation to expect performance for public monies spent. We, as citizens of the state of Alaska, need to expect and receive quality work from our employees whether they be the Governor, legislators, teachers, DOT employees, or any other state employee and these employees deserve a fair wage for their work. I am tired of hearing about wage cuts that do not start at the top and work down. If there are to be state employee wage cuts it ought to start at the Governor and work its way down from there. If we as a State are short of money, no one should be exempt from

feeling the bite. If a laborer can afford to have his wages cut, so can his boss, so can the legislators and so can the Governor.

4. State Income Tax. I am for it. I don't mind paying my fair share as long as everyone else has to too. I believe welfare benefits should be taxed. Many studies have shown that useable dollar for useable dollar a welfare family ends up with more than a medium income household. In addition, the welfare family does not have to worry about medical costs-which can be a very major concern to a medium income family with no medical insurance and too much income to qualify for help from anyone. These welfare dollars and benefits should be taxed just like the wages of any other family. An income tax would be federally tax deductible, and it would mean that every worker who earns money in the state of Alaska would be adding money to her coffers. The seasonal out of state fisherman, tourist industry workers and oil industry out of state workers would all be paying into an income tax system. They should be shouldering some of the expense. They are getting income from this state resources-its only fair. Why should they not pay state taxes to Alaska and go home and pay state taxes to Texas or Oklahoma or where ever they are from. The landowners and business owners of this state cannot be taxed to death. We need industry. We need agriculture that is viable. We need small business. We have to make a place for these endeavors. (Why does the local farmer still pay \$190.00 a ton for urea when we see in the papers that no one else is paying this for our urea?)

5. Permanent Fund I do not want this touched. It is the only thing that keeps growing and if it begins to be syphoned off it will not stop until its gone. We cannot allow this to happen. I believe that welfare recipients should not be allowed to get a permanent fund check. They are receiving aid monthly from the state already. Maybe this would be a added incentive to get off of the welfare system. We need to stop the welfare fraud. There are fathers who are not marrying the mothers of thier children for the express purpose of allowing her and the children to stay on the program. Some of these men are making excellent wages, living in a subsidized home, eating food stamps food and having their children's medical care covered by the state. Where is the pride? We need to insure that our welfare benefits are not so appealing that people are coming to our state just to receive them. I believe in people working. It is best for them and best for the society as a whole. We need to find opportunities for as many citizens of our state as possible. I believe in Alaskans being hired first. I believe everyone can contribute something worthwhile and that they will be happier when they are. We need to help those who genuinely need it and to expect those that are able to help themselves.

6. I believe in a luxury sales tax. I do not believe in food, utilities, or medical care being taxed. With a luxury tax we have the choice of whether we want the item badly enough to pay the price or not. We at least get the satisfaction of making our own choice.

7. State employees work week changed back to a 40 hour week with no pay increase. I would go along with this if some other things were done.

1. Since this is in essence a wage cut, I believe everyone in the state's employ should take a corresponding cut. All state employees. Those in any government role. If it's fair for one its fair for all.

2. When state legislators have to go into special session, they will not get any more pay. They also should be expected to get their work done in a timely manner.

3. No per diem increases for anyone unless it is proven necessary because costs have risen and if so, per diem increases apply to everyone not just the legislators.

Something needs to be done to provide necessary medical care and perscriptions at an affordable price to all who need it. A necessity of life should not be denied to anyone and they should not have to give up a lifetime of possessions to get it. There is no justice in the elderly who have contributed for a lifetime and managed to pay for a home, and a car and some simple but invaluable personal possessions having to loose everything because they have cancer or Alzheimers disease or any of the other terrible conditions we all may have to face in our later years. The medicare system and the welfare system do nothing to alleviate this problem. The pricing of some procedures and medications is astronomical. There must be a better solution.

Government needs to encourage new industry and small business endeavors by lessening paperwork and financial costs. We need to have a diversified economy and there are people who have great ideas and who would be happy to explore them if it were more feasible to do so. We need to lessen the tax burdens on land and business owners so they can try to expand their business's and utilize their lands.

Thank you for taking your time to read this. I know we all have work to do-but, working together is what it's all about isn't it. Sharing ideas and coming up with solutions that benefit as many as possible.

Priscilla Mott Phone 262-2871 Fax 260-3350 33640 Echo Lake Road Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Priscilla G. Mott

Jean Kincaid
P.O. Box 876205
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

April 15, 1999

The Honorable Pctc Kelly
Senate Finance Subcommittee, Chair
State Capitol, Room 510
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

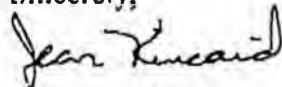
Dear Senator Kelly,

I know you have some tough decisions to make to balance the budget, but I would ask that you take a second look at the proposed cuts to programs that affect the children of our state. One program in particular is the Healthy Families program. If you have seen, heard or read any of the information on brain development, you must know how critical the first five years of a child's life are for healthy growth and brain development. Young children are born with very little "prewired" in their brains, but those connections are made very rapidly. Healthy Families is the only program in our community that begins prenatally and stays with families through those first five years, to help parents who have multiple stress factors, to have the supports to help them be the best parents they can be. These are the supports families need so their children can grow up with good medical care, a place to live, food to eat and a nurturing environment that is free of abuse and neglect.

Our program in the Mat-Su Valley has almost 100 families enrolled. As you know, it takes a long time to make changes and it will be many years before society will see the benefits for these families. They can see a difference themselves, just in how their lives are different from how they grew up and feel good that their child has a better life.

We hear so much in the media about child abuse and how there are not enough social workers to deal with all the reports and follow up adequately. Why not keep working from the prevention end and see if that will make a difference? Current data seems to show that 94% of the families involved in Healthy Families, have had no substantiated abuse and neglect. Please give them more time before you destroy what has been started, families lose services. Then, we're back to where the benefits are so small and only to a select few that you still won't be convinced that it really makes a difference.

Sincerely,



Jean Kincaid
376-8220

cc: Sen. Sean Parnell
Sen. John Torgerson
Sen. Dave Donley
Sen. Lyda Green

Sen. Loren Jeman
Sen. Randy Phillips
Sen. Gary Wilkin
Sen. Al Adams



FROM HOMER LIO
FAX 907-465-6592

Sen. Parnell

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate
FINANCE
committee name
committee on SB-30, 31 dated 4/15/99
bill/subject
HB 50, 51

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: THERE ARE HARD TIMES
COMING, WE KNOW. WE MUST ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF
THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY THE EXTENDED
CAMPUS. I DITO THE NEW PRESIDENTS LETTER ON
THIS ISSUE. "FUND THESE NEEDS" - ASK YOURSELF, WHICH
IS A PRIORITY, "PRISONS" OR "SCHOOLS"? I AGREE!

THE PERMANENT FUND WAS USED YEARS AGO ON THE
STATE DEFERRED TO THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES & BOPSAK'S
PAST FUNDING CUTS (SCHOOLS, AIRPORTS, HARBORS, ETC.)
IF YOU ARE GOING TO CUT, THEN CUT! DON'T
PASS IT DOWN TO US TO TAKE THE HEAT,
WE HAVE OUR OWN CUTS TO MAKE! THANKS
FOR THE GOOD WORK, DO IT!

Signed: [Signature] JOHN FENSKER

Testifier City of Homer (COURAID) KAC KENAI PENINSULA
COLLEGE

Representing (Optional)

Box 2112 Homer, AK 99603

Address

907 465-7211

Phone No.

4/15/99

I wish to speak to the budget issue on behalf of the natural resources of this state. A lot of the discussion I've heard has regarded the importance of the permanent fund and the loathing of taxes. Very little has been heard however, regarding the other assets of this state and the Kenai Peninsula, such as clean air and water, scenic landscapes, mineral riches, and the abundance of flora and fauna. This natural capitol provides the basic resources that fuel most of our economy.

As the logging industry on the Peninsula has grown, oversight of that industry has disappeared. Haze from slash fires reduces air quality to abysmal in the Homer area. Are these fires within state guidelines. No one knows since there are no DEC representatives in Homer. I do know that for anyone with respiratory problems this is a significant health and safety issue. Another burning respiratory issue is the tobacco lawsuit settlement. That money should be used to cover expenses caused by smoking related illnesses. While no funds can be dedicated, there are plenty of health related illnesses caused by smoking, and using this money in the general fund is inappropriate.

You folks are considering eliminating over one million dollars from Department of Natural Resources Division of Land with the express purpose of wiping out the division's land use planning capabilities. The Kenai Borough has spent years trying to create a land use plan that is fair to all the residents and with this one move all that effort will be wasted. However, the problems caused by not having a plan will continue to get worse, as gravel miners argue with homeowners in Anchor Point, and snowmachiners trespass over private lands because the borough has no plan for where different activities are appropriate.

I don't disagree with spending cuts to ineffective programs. Re-appropriate the \$145 million for interties. This is money that was appropriated in the early 90's to subsidize utilities that can pay for interties through their users. CUT \$21.1 million for Northern Region new road construction. Why is the state trying to construct new roads when the existing ones can't be maintained adequately. CUT \$1.3 million for Arctic Power & Arctic Refuge lobbying. BP/Amoco/Arco has enough money to lobby just fine on their own. CUT \$8.1 million for AIDEA & other foreign trade offices. These high risk ventures should be funded by the private sector, not the public. This would be a savings of over \$175 million.

Thank you for your time tonight.

JIM LEVINE
P.O. Box 1075
HOMER, AK 99603

Jim Levine



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on Operating Budget, dated 4-15-99
 bill/subject

The tobacco settlement money needs to be divided and not placed into a general fund. Please do apply some of the millions the state of Alaska receives to tobacco prevention and cessation.

I am a registered nurse and see the ramifications of tobacco usage. It will save the state money to have healthy, well informed residents. It is important to prevent teenage tobacco usage and cease all tobacco usage. Let the state of Alaska promote health.

Signed: Romaine Clotard, RN
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
105 Austin Street Sitka, Alaska 99835
 Address
1-907-747-3309
 Phone No.

April 15, 1999

Senator Sean Parnell, Co-chair Fax 465-6592
Senate Finance Committee

RE: Fund land use planning

Dear Senator Parnell:

The latest draft of the Senate budget has a misguided cut of \$726,000 for the DNR Division of Land, which would specifically eliminate statewide land use planning. I urge you to restore the funding to the Division of Land for land use planning.

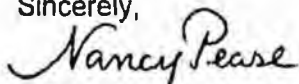
It is self-defeating to cut revenue-generating functions of state government. Without state land use planning, resource development such as forestry and large mines and tourist destination development will grind to a halt on state land. **The planning costs that the Senate is presuming to save will soon be offset by lost revenue from stalled resource development on state land.**

For example, without the Yakataga Area Plan, lawsuits would have prevented the University from harvesting millions of dollars of timber along the Gulf coast. Without the Tanana Basin Area Plan, the lucrative Fort Knox gold mine could not have proceeded. Without the Division of Land planning, local governments such as the Kenai Peninsula Borough cannot receive their municipal entitlement acreage to help develop their local tax bases.

Without Division of Land planning, random sales and scattered settlement of state lands could create impossible demands for government services (e.g. schools to serve 10 kids, forest fire and trooper protection, etc.). Again, **the costs of NOT planning for state lands will outweigh the savings.**

Count me among the responsible citizens who are willing to pay taxes to fund important government services, like planning for the use of 105 million acres of land owned by this state.

Sincerely,



Nancy Pease
19300 Villages Scenic Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
345-8738



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Budget, dated 4 15 1999
bill/subject

I am hoping for reconsideration about the cuts for mental health and drug & alcohol treatment centers. At this time I am a resident in long term recovery for both my mental disorder and substance abuse. As far as I know, our program is the only dual-diagnose facility in Alaska. I truly believe the treatment I've received has literally saved my life & the lives of others. We need financial support

Thank You.

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Karel Dalger
(print)

Representing (Optional)

2701 Palmer-Wasilla Hiway Wasilla Alaska
Address 99654

376 9933

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 committee name
 committee on Budget, dated 4 15 1999
 bill/subject

I am hoping for reconsideration about the cuts for mental health and drug & alcohol treatment centers. At this time I am a resident in long term recovery for both my mental disorder and substance abuse. As far as I know, our program is the only dual-diagnose facility in Alaska. I truly believe the treatment I've received has literally saved my life & the lives of others. We need financial support

Thank You

Signed: [Signature]
 Testifier

Karel Dalger
 (print)

Representing (Optional)
3701 Palmer-Wasilla Hiway Wasilla Alaska
 Address 99654
376 9933
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB50,51; SB 30;31 , dated 4/15/99
bill/subject

See attached ~~one~~ ^{four} pages

Fax to 907-465-6592 Sen. Parnell

From Homer L10

Signed: MICHAEL YOURKOWSKI

Testifier

HOMER CITY COUNCIL

Representing (Optional)

3059 KACHEMAK DR.

Address

235-2628 / 299-2628

Phone No.

FROM MICHAEL YOURKOWSKI CITY COUNCIL ^{HOMER, ()}

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK -
I UNDERSTAND THE BUDGET PROCESS
WE HAVE TO SET OUR PRIORITIES, BUT
I HAVE TO QUESTION THE WISDOM OF
TRYING TO BALANCE THIS BUDGET ON
THE BACKS OF OUR CHILDREN. WHEN
WE LOOK AT THE EFFECTS OF THE
PURPOSED CUTS ON HOMER WE SEE
OUR POLICE BUDGET CUT WHICH
WILL AFFECT OUR CHILDRENS SAFETY,
WE SEE OUR LIBRARY CUT WHICH
EFFECT OUR CHILDRENS EDUCATION,
WE SEE CUTS TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
WHICH EFFECT OUR CHILDRENS EDUCATION
AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

WE HAVE CUT OUR BUDGET TO THE
BONE ALREADY AND CANNOT ABSORB

(2)
A \$260,000 UNBUDGETED REDUCTION.
WHEN I COMBINE YOUR ATTITUDE
ON MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING WITH
YOUR PURPOSES USE OF THE
TOBACCO ~~SET~~ SETTLEMENT MONEY
WHICH WAS EARMARKED FOR ANTI-
SMOKING EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR
OUR CHILDREN, I SIMPLY HAVE TO
QUESTION YOUR PRIORITIES. WE CAN
CUT 145 MILLION DOLLARS SIMPLY
BY REAPPROPRIATING MONIES FROM
THE RAILBELT ENERGY FUND WHICH
WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE USED.
THE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT MONEY
SHOULD BE USED FOR ANTI SMOKING
CAMPAIGNS (THE CENTER FOR DISEASE

CONTROL HAS DETERMINED THAT 8⁽³⁾ MILLION SHOULD BE SPENT ANNUALLY IN ALASKA) AND HEALTH CARE IN ALASKA NOT PUT INTO THE GENERAL FUND. THIS WILL SAVE US BILLIONS IN THE FUTURE. IT SHOULD BE THOUGHT OF AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE. PLEASE earmark these funds for our children's future.

I PERSONALLY FAVOR THE GOVERNOR'S PLAN, ~~(AS)~~ IT MAKES TOUGH DECISIONS AND PURPOSES FAIR TAXATION SCHEMES AND APPROPRIATE SPENDING.

THANK YOU

MICHAEL YURKOWSKI

P.S. TO SENATOR BERGENSON - JOHN FENSKE, LUKE WELLS AND MYSELF WILL SEE YOU IN JUNEAU FOR AML AT THE 5:00 A.C. THE MONTH

AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK (4)
ON THE FISHERIES TAX ISSUE AND THE
HEADS UP ON THE TORA/HARBOR PLAN.

4/15/99

Hello my name is Carl High. I am the foreman here in Homer at the D.O.T. Highway Maintenance Station. It would be a mistake to place further cuts on the DOT road maintenance budget. The deferred maintenance program has over run its intended course. Even at current spending levels, many of our roads are in substandard condition. Increased cuts will lead to the continued deterioration of our system and more importantly, a further reduction of service.

Presently, 6 operators, 2 of which are seasonal, and myself maintain approximately 300 lane miles of roads on a daily basis. This winter the Homer area has received a total 237" of snow. That translates to 19 3/4 feet. There are many times when our work load exceeds not only our man power but our equipment resources as well. With this small crew, we provide coverage 7 days a week. Typically, 3 operators begin at 4 am on weekdays. They are responsible for opening all of our roads and providing safe passage for school buses and the motoring public to make it to work. If you do the math, that is 100 miles of road per employee, in 3 to 3 1/2 hours. We are so tight that any minor mechanical problem, crew illness, or leave is enough to put us well behind our performance curve. We have 1 operator on duty to care for all of our roads from 2 PM until 10 PM. No one is on from 10 PM until 4 am.

When formulating your decision on cutting the M & O budget, I ask you to factor in the value you would place on a bus load of school children, the worth of your wife's safety as she travels to and from work, or the ability of troopers and city police to make their way to work.

In closing, I would like to touch upon the issue of privatization. I urge you to interview anyone that lives on a Borough maintained road in the Homer area. Privatization is simply inefficient and ineffective.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carl S.High
TML 1
235-5218

hundreds of individuals but
Not only myself but
helped.

Therapies and how we can
move to better understand about
Charger Management, the skills and
Adult children of Alcoholics,
Altruism, Medicine Wheel, ACPA=
and group such as Coactivism

Constructive Educational classes
but Nigens Ranch also provides
on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, only

This place does not focus
on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Individuals who need help
(facility) be a place where
Nigens Ranch (being a long term
I strongly suggest that

is helping me a great deal.
Give a new way of life, which
am starting to learn and

This is a place where I
Rehabilitation Program.

my report about Nigens Ranch
I would like to write
to whom it may concern:

Sincerely,
 Patricia G.
 Kamaoyatake
 (Chief)
 3701 Palm-Woodway
 Woodbridge, VA 22193

been helped by coming to
 Angus Ranch for treatment.
 I can also pay from
 experience that this long term
 treatment is more efficient
 than a short term treatment,
 for me a long term individual
 are working on themselves
 on their own pace, where in
 short term treatment cases
 are crammed into them and
 even really understating what
 they just learned.
 Thank you for your
 time and interest.



THE CHILDREN'S PLACE

... a place to be heard.

... a place to be helped.

April 15, 1999

Senator Lyda Green
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Lyda,

Lyda & the members of the Senate Finance Committee

We are writing to request your support for funding of the Dual Track Differential Response to Child Protection pilot project in the Mat-Su Borough. I know you are aware from our previous conversations that the Mat-Su Borough has significant problems with child physical and sexual abuse, as well as neglect, with over 1400 reports of harm yearly to our local Division of Family and Youth Services. Each report is prioritized. "Priority 1" reports are those where a child is in imminent danger, and immediate intervention is needed. "Priority 2" reports are those where risk to the child is high, and must be responded to within 72 hours. Over 700 of these are considered "Priority 3" reports, which require a response within 7 days. In reality, however, approximately 96% are "work-load adjusted" and receive no investigation. A recent survey by a social work intern at DFYS revealed that 80% of these families had prior reports of harm (30% of them 6 or more prior reports); 67% had prior substantiated investigations; and 89% had no referrals to community resources. The reality is that children and their families do not receive intervention until significant harm occurs.

The Dual Track project is a model where families with these Priority 3 reports receive a family assessment (rather than an investigation) that looks at family strengths and needs, and provides referrals to existing community programs and resources. The purpose of this program is to identify families in trouble early, and intervene in a positive way that promotes family integrity, family strength, and good parenting.

The Children's Place, the Mat-Su Borough's new Children's Advocacy Center, successfully applied for and received funding for the fourth quarter of FY99 to develop this project in Mat-Su as a model for the rest of the state. We are in the midst of hiring and training staff and developing the protocols to work with local agencies and programs in the most effective way possible. We have full support from the Mat-Su Agency Partnership and the community at large, because this program provides a local community controlled and community appropriate response to child maltreatment, and utilizes existing resources rather than creating or enlarging state agencies. This program will reduce costs both short and long term for the state. Privatization brings money back in the community, and use of existing resources is more cost-effective. State foster care, juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, and substance abuse are the long term, expensive consequences of child maltreatment. Strong, effective, and safe families raise successful children that contribute positively to our local communities and our state.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely Yours,

Cathy Baldwin-Johnson
Cathy Baldwin-Johnson, MD, Medical Director

Margaret Volz, PNP
Margaret Volz, PNP, Program Director



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee name
committee on Budget, dated 4-15-1999
bill/subject

I urge you to reconsider your budget through the eyes of children. The Child Care Grant provides my daughter's care providers training that they would not receive without the grant.

My daughter and all children of parents who have to work deserve quality care provided by professionals who can make a livable wage.

Your budget cuts are a short-term solution that will have long-term financial implications when we have to pay for more expensive services for children who did not receive quality care.

Signed: Rebecca W. Williams
Testifier (print)
Voting Parents
Representing (Optional)
240 Irene St. Palmer AK 99645
Address
745-7198
Phone No.

Cheryl Mann
P. O. Box 240434
Anchorage, Alaska 99524

14, April, 1999

Dear Senator,

I am writing to ask for your support in restoring the proposed cuts that would decimate the provision of alcohol and other drug abuse services for the people of Alaska. It is grossly unfair that the majority of the proposed cuts to the Department of Health and Social Services fall almost entirely on the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Further, they would seriously threaten both the direct and indirect delivery of substance abuse services to the families and communities who need them. Cutting more than 50% of the budget for ADA would result in losing more than half the staff and their ability to monitor state and federal grants. Thus, quality assurance would be greatly reduced and federal matching funds will be lost. And, Alaska was one of the few states to receive a federal prevention grant last year. Why are we thinking about eliminating the programs that can help our children have a better future?

These proposed cuts would eliminate the progress that we have made in the field in the last several years as well as jeopardize drug and alcohol service delivery. The Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, a citizen group, worked for more than a year to develop a statewide Outcomes based plan using the Friedman model supported by the Legislature. Through collaboration with a variety of groups statewide we have developed what has been lauded as a model plan. It is very disappointing to think that this work was for nothing and that services are going to be arbitrarily cut before being able to demonstrate that the plan provides the framework for more effective and efficient delivery. Additionally, I teach at UAA and everyday I observe students come through my classroom who are changing their lives and those of their families to create better futures for themselves and for Alaska as a result of their participation in alcohol and drug treatment programs. What better demonstration can we have that these services work and benefit the state?

Please reduce these draconian cuts and acknowledge that solving our budget shortfall should not be done on the backs of individuals and families with substance abuse problems that can, and are, being treated.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Mann,
Chair, Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Allen E. Klein
Virginia B. Ragle
P.O. Box 240633
Douglas, Alaska 99824
(907) 586-3157 (h) (907) 465-3600 (w)

April 15, 1999

Honorable Sean Parnell and John Torgerson
Co-Chairs, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Re: Child care grants

Dear Co-Chairs Parnell and Torgerson,
and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

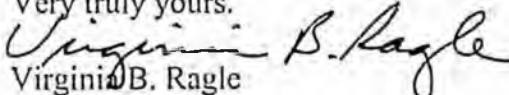
We are writing to urge the Senate Finance Committee to fund the child care grant program at at least its current level.

We understand that the Committee is considering transferring money that has historically been allocated to child care grants into the direct assistance program for low income families. The assistance program is certainly a valuable and worthy program that makes it possible for many low income families to obtain quality child care for their children. However, the grant program augments the direct assistance program, and also helps to provide better quality child care for all Alaskan children, regardless of whether they come from low income families or from middle income families that do not qualify for assistance.

Having used both a small in-home day care and a larger child care center, it is our experience that both charge "tuition" at a level the market will bear. Still, tuition is often not enough to cover all the expenses incurred in providing quality child care and preschool education. For example, at the Juneau Montessori Center that our son attends, some of the costs that are not covered by tuition are borne by parents and staff, who contribute hundreds of hours of volunteer work for fundraising and for maintaining the facility. A few parents who are financially able contribute cash, as well as volunteer time. A small but significant source of the school's funding is the State's grant program.

The approximately \$9,000 that the school anticipates receiving from the grant program provides staffing that benefits all of the school's children. Given the already-high level of volunteerism at the school, it is not likely that the school could replace the grant money through additional fundraising efforts. If the school is forced to raise tuition, clearly children of low income families will suffer first, and most. If a raise in tuition makes the school unaffordable and financially nonviable, then all of the children and families will suffer. Families that use other quality child care centers and licensed day care facilities around the state are at similar risk if this program is eliminated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Virginia B. Ragle

cc: Honorable Drue Pearce, President
Alaska State Senate

**William D. Hitchcock
303 K Street, Suite 280
Anchorage, AK 99501
Ph. (907) 264-0419**

RECEIVED
APR 15 1999
Senate Finance
Committee

April 15, 1999

Senator Sean Parnell
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Room 518
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Citizens' Foster Care Review Board

Dear Senator Parnell and Members of the Committee:

Due to personal commitments, I will be unable to testify at the public hearing tonight but wished to convey my concerns to you. The statements in this letter represent my own personal views and do not constitute the official position of the Alaska Court System.

I am Master for Children's Court in Anchorage responsible for hearing and case management of Child in Need of Aid cases. I am also a former director and past president of the National Association of Foster Care Reviewers, a group which provides training and technical assistance to review agencies across the country.

The reforms brought about by the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, as reflected in Alaska statutes pursuant to HB 375 (Smart Start), have posed new and significant challenges for the child protection justice system. Child welfare agencies and courts must move rapidly to achieve permanency and prevent foster care drift under the new timelines. Accountability for permanency by all entities involved in the lives of abused children must be assured.

Citizen foster care review boards can be a major force in our achieving the system reforms needed under the new act. The volunteer hours that these reviewers commit to their work are a significant contribution, the monetary value of which should be strongly considered in making budgetary decisions. The fresh perspectives and insights they bring in scrutinizing the service plans provided in these cases aid both the court and the agency in making quality and timely decisions.

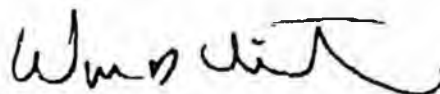
I am sure that there are those in DFYS who will tell you that review merely duplicates the efforts of the Division. Such a perspective overlooks the multi-disciplinary nature of the child protection system. Independent third-party

review provides valuable information to courts and agencies alike, not only on individual cases but on broader systemic problems that policymakers need to know about.

We are at a critical juncture in the evolution of the child protection system in this country. I cannot envision a worse time to eliminate a program such as this. We need the involvement of the broader community of caring and willing volunteers to meet the challenges these increasingly complicated cases bring us. Government cannot do this job alone. We should not turn our backs on the dedication and concern of these citizens to help make a difference in the lives of children.

I urge the Committee to continue to support and assist this project in achieving its true potential.

Sincerely,



William D. Hitchcock
Master, Children's Court
Anchorage



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Parks & Recreation • ph. 907 747.1852 fax: 907.747.1856 • barnaby@cityofsitka.com

April 14, 1999

Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol

Dear Senate Finance Members,

During our recent visit to Juneau, we were encouraged that Alaska's Legislators seemed prepared to develop and implement a unified long-term fiscal plan for the State of Alaska, and to do so this session. Everyone seemed to agree that no amount of realistic budget cutting would balance the state budget, and that it is time for the legislators to determine new revenue streams to fund basic services. Nowhere did we hear of a proposal for wholesale elimination of state aide to municipalities.

The proposal passed by the House Finance Committee to eliminate Revenue Sharing and Municipal Assistance is not a real cut but rather a transfer of fiscal responsibility to local taxpayers. A responsibility that every state in the union meets today, and that Alaska has offered since long before oil began flowing through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Sitka receives over \$702,000 through Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities funding. The proposed cut to our operating dollars would be devastating to the Municipality of Sitka and Sitka Community Hospital. We are already going before the voters this fall to request that our sales tax be maintained to offset revenue losses as the result of the closure of the APC mill. Sitka simply cannot absorb this massive additional reduction in support.

Other proposed cuts are also going beyond prudent management. For example, eliminating the Forest Products Specialist position and major travel funds in the Department of Commerce will be a huge waste of all the development efforts which have gone into getting this position in place. It is functioning extremely well, assisting the forest products industry which has dropped from 4,000 to 1,200 employees in the last eight years. Sitka needs this position to support our Wood Utilization center and other efforts to build a new forest products industry in the state. We understand the Department of Environmental Conservation's budget may be cut to no longer permit restaurant inspections. It is poor planning to cut or pass on to municipalities basic state services when the resources are available to fund state government at a reasonable level of maintenance.

Sitka pledges to do our part to educate our constituents on the seriousness of the state's budget crisis and the need for new sources of revenues. Please put your efforts into developing a long-range fiscal plan rather than engaging in unplanned cuts that jeopardize the health and safety of our people.

Sincerely,



Stan J. Filler, Mayor



City of False Pass

P.O. Box 50 • False Pass, Alaska 99583-0050
Telephone (907) 548-2319 • Fax (907) 548-2214

DATE: April 15, 1999
FROM: John Nickels II, Mayor
TO: Senator Sean Parnell
Senate Finance Committee Members
RE: Revenue Sharing/Safe Communities

I would like to express my strong disapproval for the current House plan to eliminate all funding for municipal revenue sharing programs. Every state shares revenues with its municipalities because it is the responsibility of state government to ensure that citizens have basic services. Because Alaska has a greater number of poor communities than most states, it is imperative to continue funding revenue sharing programs or risk losing basic services in the rural areas. While this sort of cut may be acceptable in urban areas and larger communities where the loss can be made up for in higher local taxes, it simply won't work in our community. There is no way a community of 58 people can increase local taxes enough to make up for lost revenue sharing funds. I urge you to retain revenue sharing programs, at least in the rural areas, where revenue sharing funds are an important part of local municipal budgets.

Sincerely,

John Nickels II (signed in his absence)
John Nickels II - Mayor

sr/JN

J.A. Robbins
1657 Second Avenue #46
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
April 14, 1999

The Honorable Sean R. Parnell
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 518
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(Via Fax: 907-465-6592)

Re: University of Alaska Funding

Dear Sir:

I am writing you to express my support for fully funding the University of Alaska. I understand that the state is facing an oil revenue deficit, but under-funding the UA system is not a viable way to solve the problem. It is my desire to see the University fully funded with the additional \$16.3 million general fund increment that they have requested. As an alternative, I would have no problem with this money coming from Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve account. A reduced dividend is a small price to pay for preserving the future of higher education in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Allen Robbins

Cynthia J. WentworthP. O. Box 83565
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Email: cindyw@ptialaska.net

Telephone 907-474-4984

April 13, 1999

Senator Sean Parnell
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: UAF Funding

Dear Senator Parnell:

As a UAF alumnus, treasurer of the UAF Alumni Association, and mother of a high school student, I am extremely concerned about adequate funding for the University of Alaska. I fully support President Hamilton's request for a \$16.3 million increase in general fund appropriations over the next three years. When we lose our faculty and programs, we lose our students. I don't want my son to have to choose a "lower 48" college because budget cuts eroded his program of interest to such an extent that he cannot obtain a quality education in his home state.

I urge you to demonstrate your unequivocal support of our children, our university, and our state by funding the full \$16.3 million increase requested by our outstanding new President.

Sincerely,



Cynthia J. Wentworth



AMEREF

121 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 250
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 276-0700 Fax 276-3887

Alaska Mineral and Energy Resource Education Fund

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

John Blackwell

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Tom Crafford, Vice President
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April 14, 1999

Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: AMEREF Funding

Dear Finance Committee Members:

On behalf of the Alaska Mineral and Energy Resource Education Fund (AMEREF), I am writing to urge the Finance Committee to restore the state's \$50,000 general fund match dedicated to AMEREF in the Department of Education's budget for FY 2000. These funds are critical to AMEREF's survival.

AMEREF is one of Alaska's finest examples of a successful public/private partnership. In fact, since 1982 AMEREF and the state have cooperated to deliver one of the nation's best natural resource and energy education programs. AMEREF is a one of a kind education program providing Alaska students with the information they need to make informed decisions about development issues. AMEREF has been accepted in all of Alaska's 54 school districts, and over the past 17 years hundreds of teachers and thousands of students have been exposed to the program.

At the heart of the AMEREF program is the Alaska Resources Kit. This Alaska-specific, interdisciplinary set of lesson plans and educational activities includes samples of oil, minerals and rocks indigenous to Alaska, videos, posters, maps and reference books. These materials are continually revised and updated by Alaska teachers and industry scientists to ensure their accuracy. The private sector is solely responsible for funding, building and disseminating the kits.

The lesson plans and activities included in AMEREF's curriculum modules can not be found elsewhere. Currently, AMEREF is funding the revision of Module B: Alaska's Geology to meet Alaska's new education standards.

AMEREF's curriculum modules are used both on their own, and in conjunction with existing lessons in physics, chemistry, geology and Alaska history.


The work of the public sector is equally indispensable. AMEREF's part-time coordinator in the Department of Education oversees a teacher advisory board, contracts professional education writers to develop curriculum modules, acts as a liaison between industry representatives and teachers, provides training opportunities for teachers who wish to use the kits, and builds awareness of the AMEREF program throughout Alaska's urban and rural school districts. This work can not be duplicated by the private sector.

Through this public/private partnership, AMEREF provides a unique valuable education program to Alaska students. At a time when Alaska faces a billion dollar budget shortfall, AMEREF furnishes a beneficial public service in a cost-effective manner by sharing the financial responsibilities with the private sector. Without adequate public funding, however, the program will not continue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please don't hesitate to contact me or Tadd Owens (276-0700) on AMEREF's staff if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

ALASKA MINERAL & ENERGY RESOURCE EDUCATION FUND


Paul Glavinovich
AMEREF Past President

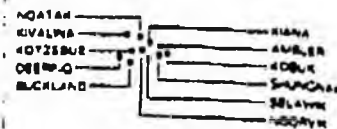
April 14, 1999

To Whom It May Concern:

Hi, My Names is, Sarah Ashepak I graduated from the Alaska Technical Center, and with their help I was able to get skills and employment. I'm writing on, behalf of the Alaska Technical Center Members to get more funding to keep the education at the ATC available for trainees to attend further education.

Thank you

Northwest Arctic Borough School District
BOX 51
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA 99752
(907) 442-3472



PROPERTY SERVICES DEPT.
PHONE: (907) 442-3476
FAX: (907) 442-2391

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER

TO: Final Finance Committee FAX NO: 465-6592
members NO. OF PAGES (INC. COVER) 2
 ATTN: _____ DATE: 4.19.99
 FROM: SARAH

Richard E. Harding 12611 Toilsome Hill Drive, Anchorage, AK, 99516

April 13, 1999

Senator Sean Parnell
State Capitol, Room 504
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

VIA FAX (907) 465-2788 ⁶⁵⁹²

Dear Senator Parnell:

Yesterday the house voted to back a plan to eliminate municipal revenue sharing. A cut to municipal revenue sharing is nothing but a property tax increase on Anchorage property tax payers, it is not a true reduction in government.

There are approximately 260,000 people living in Anchorage using public services such as police, schools, and road service. There are, however, only 70,000 property owners in Anchorage, 60,000 are homeowners and these property owners are paying for all city services that are not covered by state municipal revenue sharing.

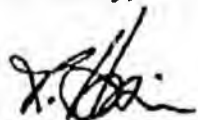
There are also approximately 1.4 million* visitors to Anchorage every year that have the benefit of public roads and the availability of Anchorage police and other public services. They too should share in the cost. Anchorage cannot pass a sales tax soon enough, if ever, to cover the loss. The state could pass a tax and continue revenue sharing.

If the entire 260,000 residents and 1.4 million visitors paid for services provided by the city, it would significantly increase the tax base and distribute the cost evenly and fairly. It would also contribute to the revenue sharing for rural villages.

As unpopular as sales tax is, an State sales tax would solve this inequitable situation and make owning a home in Anchorage far more attractive. I cannot afford to live here if we do not do something to relieve the homeowners property tax. Its one of the highest in the United States.

If you must cut revenue sharing, do it in increments. The best solution, however, would be to select specific programs and provide a state sales tax to supplement them. There should also be a floating gas tax to cover the fluctuating oil prices. When oil prices drop, the pump price would remain the same and the tax difference would help offset the loss from oil revenues.

Sincerely,



Richard Harding

* Last count 1993 - estimate increase 4 to 8% annually - Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Alaska Rural Development Council
"Building Partnerships "
in Rural Development

University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Drive, BEE #205
Anchorage, AK 99508
Chuck Akers, Executive Director

P: (907) 786-4660 • F. (907) 786-4662
E-mail: ancja@uaa.alaska.edu

Facsimile Transmittal

To: Senator Sean Parnell Fax: (907) 465-6592

Re: _____ Date: _____

From: Chuck Akers *Chuck Akers* Pages (include cover): 1

Message

We the Alaska Rural Development Council, serving rural needs in economic development, support municipal assistance and revenue sharing. City of Manokotak budget will decrease by 80%, City of Angoon, 20%, and City of McGrath's budget will decrease by 30%. These are just a few examples that will change the outlook for Rural Alaska. Many small cities will have to reduce police and public safety services, which will increase demand on State Troopers and other State Agencies.

We represent 22 City, State, and Tribal governments on our Council from across our Great State. Our recent meeting in Thorne Bay, Alaska, demonstrates the real needs of rural communities. With the depressed Tongass Forest area, depressed fishing areas, and others across the state. Can we really afford to also cut municipal assistance and revenue sharing?

WE THINK NOT!

WE SUPPORT REVENUE SHARING AND MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE!

Maniilaq Manpower

P.O. BOX 725

KOTZEBUE, ALASKA 99752

PHONE

(907) 442-3800

April 14, 1998

Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Committee Members:

I would like to offer written testimony on behalf of funding for the Alaska Technical Center here in Kotzebue during this legislative session.

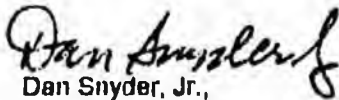
Maniilaq Manpower, being a funding agency for students from the Northwest Arctic Borough attending technical training, has had experience in funding students in a variety of schools, with a majority of those funded attending Alaska Technical Center. Currently, we are funding 22 students in technical training, with 15 of those students funded attending the Alaska Technical Center. With The Alaska Technical Center being in a rural setting, it has had a higher success rate in graduating rural students. The Alaska Technical Center offers rural residents an alternative to urban based technical institutes and have been very successful in preparing residents for a career.

During the period July 1, 1997 through July 30, 1998, we had 48 students funded with 34 attending Alaska Technical Center. Of the 48 students, 16 were carried over into our current funding cycle. 12 of these 16 students have completed training in December and all have went to work. Of the 12, 10 are still working. Of the remaining 32 students, 26 went to work. Once this information is submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor, we discontinue tracking them.

If the Alaska Technical Center is not funded, I feel our success rate of graduating students from technical centers will diminish. This would not only hurt the economy of Northwest Arctic Borough but the State of Alaska as well. Therefore, I would strongly encourage you folks to continue funding the Alaska Technical Center.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dan Snyder, Jr.,
Executive Director

cc: Alaska Technical Center



MANHLAM BAWAAKBRAGSIUGVIA

MEMBER VILLAGES

IMPAAPPAAT, NUNATCHIAQ, IPNATCHIAQ, KATYAAK, KIVALINGO, LAUGVIK, OMKIOTABRUK, NAUTAAG, NUUHYK, AKULIGAO, ISINNAQ

AMBLEM, BUCKLAND, DEERING, KIANA, KIVALINA, KOBUK, KOTZEBUE, NOATUK, NOORVIK, BELAVIK, BHUNGNAX

907-465-6592

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

STOP THE BUDGET CUTS! Over the last several years, approximately 95% of the courses I completed, towards my Associate's of Arts Degree and a BA in Social Work, are courses that were offered through distance education at the Chukchi Campus. Taking courses, offered through distance education/ audio-conference, takes self-discipline and self-direction. You do not have a professor to teach you in a classroom setting, however without the opportunity to take courses in this fashion, many rural Alaskan people could not 'attend' college. Not funding rural branches of the University of Alaska Fairbanks is nothing less than another form of genocide, because to survive in today's world, you need education. Many, if not most, of the rural populations that are served by the University of Alaska Fairbanks are primarily Alaska Native people. Without education in modern society, Alaskan Natives do not survive.

Another form of genocide is to cut off the funding and therefore services which provide treatment, referral sources, prevention, education on alcoholism, and other addictions to a population that is primarily Native. This is true even-though the Native population is only 16% in Alaska. Without the treatment and understanding that is demanded to treat the disease of alcoholism, and other drug addictions, the population of Native people will continue to suffer and die at rates much higher than that of the non-Native population.

Without these essential services, our Native People will continue to suffer the effects of genocide. It is we, who are the leaders. It is we, who are educated and alcohol/drug free, who must determine how important that it is that we are so... With this understanding, we must act on the importance that education and alcoholism and other addiction treatment SHOULD be available for others as we would have wanted it available for us.

Please consider that we do have a voice, and if budget cuts are made that effect these services, Native People will continue to fight for their rights to these services. Thank you for your time and consideration on this serious matter.

Sincerely,



Elmer Ann Pellon

P.O. Box 74

Kotzebue, AK 99752

(907) 442-7643

**Full Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Hello! My name is Mildred Nelson, and I recently graduated from the Alaska Technical Center. I was born and raised in Kotzebue Alaska.

Because I took the Office Occupations program offered by the ATC, I am now employed full time at the Kotzebue Middle/High School. I think that a lot of people can benefit from the programs that that ATC has to offer. If it is closed down, the people from the surrounding villages will have to go a lot farther from home to learn the skills that they are learning now, or will be learning in the days to come.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for understanding.

Sincerely,

Mildred Nelson

Mildred Nelson



April 14, 1999

Senator Sean Parnell
Fax: 907-465-6592

Dear Senator Sean Parnell,

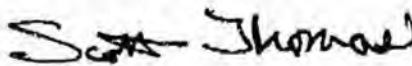
Alaska Wildland Adventures has operated backcountry lodges, natural history, rafting, and fishing trips for twenty-three years on the Kenai Peninsula and Denali National Park. Our goal is for our guests to actively experience Alaska in the spirit of appreciation, participation, and sensitivity toward the land and its inhabitants.

I am writing in regards to the proposal to cut \$1.5 million dollars from DNR's Division of Land, which would virtually eliminate all land use planning. The tourism industry is dependent upon the maintenance of the Alaska's wilderness character, scenic viewsheds, healthy fish and wildlife populations, and the preservation of their critical habitat. Our industry ultimately depends upon these qualities to attract clients.

Without planning safeguards in place, Alaskan businesses will suffer. Proper land use planning is critical for responsible development and business opportunities. Our business supports planning efforts, such as the Kenai Area Plan, to promote responsible development on Alaska's public lands. It is within the state's best interest to protect public lands and allow development in a responsible manner.

Please do not eliminate funding for land use planning within the Division of Natural Resources.

Sincerely,



Scott Thomas
Program Director

cc: Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association (AWRTA)
Alaska Conservation Voice

NATIVE VILLAGE OF BUCKLAND

BUCKLAND I.R.A COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 67
BUCKLAND,ALASKA 99727
(907)494-2171
FAX(907)494-2217

April 14, 1999

Alaska State Legislature
Attn: Finance Committee

Dear Sirs,

The Buckland IRA Council would like to express their support for continued full funding for the Alaska Technical Center. We feel that it benefits our community by having the school in our region, so that our people can get technical training close to home.

We have students that have graduated from the Technical Center and are now working at Red Dog and other places. We still have students attending the School now. We also know that the students we provide scholarships for usually want to attend the Ak. Technical Center.

Thank You.

Sincerely,



Percy Ballot
IRA President

April 14, 1999

Finance Committee
Fax : 465-6592
Juneau, Alaska

This is a letter of support for 100% funding for the operation of the Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue, Alaska

My name is Robert Hingsbergen. I attended the Millwright Industrial Maintenance program last year at the Alaska Technical Center, which I did complete.

Since the Alaska Technical Center is located in Kotzebue, I've had the chance of coming home to Selawik every weekend to help my family. Another good thing was that I did not go far away from my home and that I was able to continue a subsistence way of life by fishing and hunting.

Now that I've completed the training, I've received a full time job at the Red Dog Mine. Because of the training certificate I've received, the job I now have is a good paying job, and I get to work a 4 weeks on, 2 weeks off schedule. The schedule is long and I have to be away from my family, but I know now that I can fully support my family.

I strongly encourage you to continue the 100% funding to have the Alaska Technical Center in operation. Who knows maybe 15 years from now, your grandchild or their children will get the chance of training at this wonderful school.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Robert Hingsbergen
Former Graduate of the Alaska Technical Center

FROM : TENAKEE HOT SPRINGS LODGE

FAX NO. : 907 736 2400

Apr. 14 1999 02:08PM P1



Tenakee Hot Springs Lodge

P.O. Box 3 • Tenakee Springs, AK 99841 • (907) 736-2400 • (907) 736-2245

April 14, 1999

Sean Parnell
Senate Finance Committee
State of Alaska
Fax 907-465-2295

Dear Senator Parnell,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed reduction or elimination of revenue sharing for rural communities. Our municipal government receives 30% of its operating budget from state revenue sharing. Our maintenance of our infrastructure depends on these funds. We have few options, if any, for raising the revenues needed to continue our city government. All states share revenues with communities and rural Alaskan communities need assistance as well.

Please continue the revenue sharing and other financial help.

Sincerely,
Dan McDon

Subject: Fiscal Plan Analysis

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 1999 14:39:49 -0800

From: "Cheryl Frasca" <cfrasca@alaska.net>

To: Debbie Grundmann <Deborah_Grundmann@legis.state.ak.us>

Debbie:

Last week Fiscal Policy Council members had a conference call with Senators Pearce and Parnell. The purpose was to learn more about where things stood, and how the Council could help. During the discussion, we offered for Scott Goldsmith from UAA's ISER to come and visit with Legislative folks about the model he/we are using to evaluate plans. Pearce and Parnell said that would be okay. In the meantime, Scott has had conversations with Phil at Leg Finance and Scott says the two of them see things pretty much the same as far as their respective models that evaluate plans.

So, I re-touched based with Wendy Lindskoog this afternoon on whether she thought there was value in Scott coming to Juneau. Her advice was that they are really occupied on budget stuff right now and we concluded there really wasn't much value to Scott coming down.

When we had discussed this during the conference call, Sean had said to coordinate with you. So with this message I wanted to touch base with you to learn if you had any insights that might suggest Scott should come down. Please let me know if you do....

In the meantime, hope all is going well--or as well as it can be with only five more Saturdays until adjournment!

Thanks!
Cheryl.

P.S. I'm especially sensitive because I remember how these Anchorage-types who aren't in the trenches think they can just pop into Juneau and pronounce how things ought to be...!



CITY OF NOME

Celebrating 100 Years of Gold Rush History

Incorporated April 9, 1901

April 12, 1999

Alaska Senate Finance Committee
C/O Senate Finance Secretary
Capitol, Room 520
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
FAX: (907) 465-2187

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

Attached, please find City of Nome, Alaska Resolution No. R-99-4-2 (Amended), expressing the Nome Common Council's support for the continuation of State Revenue Sharing and Municipal Assistance Funding for Alaska's Communities. The Nome Common Council passed this resolution at their most recent city council meeting, held on March 9, 1999.

Sincerely,

Helen I. Dickson, City Clerk
City of Nome, Alaska

Presented By:
City Manager
Action Taken:
Yes 6 No 0

CITY OF NOME, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. R-99-4-2 (Amended)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NOME COMMON COUNCIL
SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF STATE REVENUE SHARING
AND MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING
FOR ALASKA'S COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, the House Finance Committee is giving serious consideration to eliminating State Revenue Sharing and Municipal Assistance funds to Alaskan communities as an option to help address the State's budget shortfall; and,

WHEREAS, this important source of state assistance has been decreasing annually for numerous years for the City of Nome, ranging from \$894,663 in FY 89 to \$395,969 for the current fiscal year ; and,

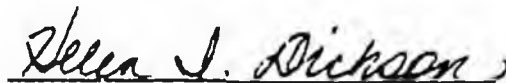
WHEREAS, this dramatic decrease in state assistance forces the City of Nome to raise local taxes, cut services, defer maintenance on infrastructure, retain equipment beyond reasonable limits along with heavy use of fiscal reserves, and further, to find local means to offset the loss of services and state shared revenues,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nome Common Council supports the continuation of State Revenue Sharing and Municipal Assistance Funding for Alaska's Communities, by presenting this resolution to the Alaska House Finance Committee, and Alaska Senate Finance Committee.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 9th day of April, 1999.


John K. Handeland, Mayor

ATTEST:


Helen I. Dickson, City Clerk

MEMO

Lafayette, Silver Lining, Crusader
P.O. Box 6092
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone: (907) 225-5505
Fax: (907) 225-3891

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee
From: Leigh Gerber
Subject: Budget Proposal for FY 2000
Date: 4/15/1999

As a fish plant manager and professional member of the Alaskan fishing community I oppose any funding cut to ADF&G budget. Past cuts have reduced the ADF&G budget to operating essentials and your proposed cuts will harm the fisheries management of the State of Alaska. Fishing revenues to the State of Alaska more than support the current budget with the excess going to the General Fund. Federal funds to replace lost dollars are not guaranteed. The science for intelligent management of Alaskan fisheries (the pride of many Alaskans) must be properly funded.

Sincerely



Leigh Gerber

FV AU

Jeremy C Hansen
5875 Glacier Hwy #21
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 780-5816

Senator Parnell, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska Capital

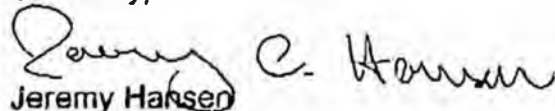
Dear Senator Parnell,

I just started fishing my own limited entry permit in 1998 to help fund my college education. I have grown up in a family that commercially fishes for salmon, crab, groundfish and herring. I am concerned about the budget cuts ADFG has received over the last few years. Please consider the level of funding the House of Representatives used in their operating budget.

This large of cuts to the ADFG budget will only provide less general fund revenues to the State as the Dept manages more conservatively and fishermen loses opportunity to catch fish due to lack of in season information.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee with my views.

Sincerely,


Jeremy Hansen

F/V Ocean Gold
Edward R Hansen
5875 Glacier Hwy #21
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 780-5816

Senator Parnell, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska Capital

Dear Senator Parnell,

As an Alaskan commercial fisherman and resident for the last 14 years, I am concerned about the drastic budget cuts ADFG has received over the last few years. I would like to suggest that the Senate Finance committee consider the level of funding the House of Representatives put in their budget.

This large of cuts to the ADFG budget will only provide less general fund revenues to the State as the Dept manages more conservatively and fishermen loses opportunity to catch fish due to lack of in season information.

Sincerely,


Ed Hansen



United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters

PO Box 22427

Juneau, Alaska 99802

(907) 586-5860 Fax (907) 780-6621

E-mail: usag@alaska.net

FAX COVER SHEET

Date: 4/15/99

From: Kathy Hansen, USAG Executive Director

To: Senator Parnell

FAX: 465-2187

Number of Pages including cover sheet: 2

MESSAGE

Please distribute our comments to all Senate Finance Committee Members
Thank You



United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
PO Box 22427
Juneau, Alaska 99802
(907) 586-5860 Fax (907) 780-6621
E-mail: usag@alaska.net

April 14, 1999

Senator Torgerson, Co-Chair
Senator Parnell, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100) Room 520
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Torgerson & Senator Parnell & Committee Members,

We are writing today in regards to our concern for the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game budget. Commercial fishing in the State of Alaska is the number 1 private employer and contributes significant amounts of revenue to the state, which 1/2 of the funds is then shared with the communities where the fish is landed. By not adequately funding the Dept of Fish and Game the State of Alaska receives less money in the general fund. This occurs because the Dept. manages the fisheries more conservatively as they don't have adequate in-season information.

A cut as large as the senate ADFG finance sub-committee is suggesting for the Dept of Fish and Game will most likely include the closure of ADFG area offices, and cuts to in-season management programs such as weirs, marking and recovery programs and biologists on the fishing grounds to determine what is happening in season. Without the in season information the Dept must and should manage conservatively therefore fishing opportunities are lost.

General Fund appropriations have decreased over 15% in the last 5 years. In 1997 state revenues from commercial fishing totaled \$67.5 million and expenditures were \$57.1 gaining the state net revenues of \$10.4 million to the general fund.

While we understand that the Legislature is facing tough choices in dealing with the shortfall in the State budget, crippling an industry that pays its own way does not gain the state in the long run. We understand that it has been suggested that the Dept can gain back funds from the Federal Government as they take over subsistence management on navigable waters. It is unrealistic to consider that as a source of funds until there is an agreement with the Federal Government that they will pay the State for management of subsistence.

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters would like to request that the Senate Finance Committee considers the funding level developed in the House version of the budget. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen, Executive Director



ADOPTED AUGUST 1972

April 15, 1999

CITY of WRANGELL, ALASKA

INCORPORATED JUNE 15, 1903

COX 531, 99929 (907) 874-2381
FAX: (907) 874-3952

Senator Sean Parnell
State Capitol
Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RECEIVED
APR 15 1999
Senate Finance
Committee

Dear Senator Parnell:

The City of Wrangell strongly opposes to the proposed budget cuts to the Municipal Revenue Sharing Programs. These funds have been decreasing annually forcing communities into raising taxes and eliminating services that are seriously needed. In 1992 Wrangell received almost 1.3 million from three separate sources from the state. If Municipal Revenue programs are eliminated, we will receive only the Timber Tax Revenue in the amount of \$100,000, resulting in a reduction of 1.2 million over the last 7 years. We currently have a 10 mil tax rate which generates about \$900,000 in property taxes and a 7% sales tax rate which generates about 1.6 million. We will be losing an amount more than all the property taxes we currently collect.

If the Legislature is going to keep eliminating revenue sources to communities, than you need to have the courage to eliminate mandated tax exemptions, such as Senior Citizens Property Tax, and let the communities have options on these without being mandated to do so.

Please understand the communities cannot take anymore cuts and we encourage you to maintain these programs.

Respectfully,

William B. Privett
Mayor



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
 committee on Operating Budget, dated 4/15/99
 bill/ subject

Please help ensure that the fall \$16.3 million funding request for the U of A be approved. A sound education system, including our public TV and radio stations, needs to be Alaska's top priority to realize solutions for economic diversification and revitalization. Short changing our youth's education is a disservice to Alaska's future.

Signed: ~~Phil Kaspari~~ Phil Kaspari
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 122 Delta Jct AK 99737
 Address
907-895-4384
 Phone No.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

PO BOX 1189

DELTA JCT., AK 99737

PHONE: (907) 895-4236

FAX: (907) 895-5017

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM:
Senate Finance	Liz Sarver
COMPANY:	DATE:
Alaska State Legislature	04/15/99
FAX NUMBER:	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:
465-6592	2
PHONE NUMBER:	SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:
[Click here and type phone number]	[Click here and type reference number]
RE:	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:
Operating Budget	[Click here and type reference number]

URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	4/15	# of pages	2
To	Senator Marshall		From	Jake & Pen	
Co./Dept.			Co.	boro	
Phone #			Phone #	907-246-2421	
Fax #	405-10592		Fax #	907-246-10602	

LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION 99-07

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING AT THE FY 99 LEVEL FOR THE STATE REVENUE SHARING AND MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has proposed the complete elimination of the State Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Programs, and

WHEREAS, the Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Programs have already been cut by approximately 70 percent over the past 10 years, and

WHEREAS, budget cuts of this magnitude and significance to the health, safety, and welfare of Alaska's people should be done within the framework of a comprehensive, coherent, and publicly accepted long term fiscal plan, and

WHEREAS, municipalities should not be targeted again for program cuts because they provide the most basic of public services including police, fire, roads, water and sewer, solid waste, emergency medical, and schools, and

WHEREAS, 75 cities in Alaska rely on these programs for 20% of general fund revenues and 25 cities rely on them for over 40% of their revenues, and

WHEREAS, elimination of the Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Programs simply shifts the burden for providing basic public services to local taxpayers and we can expect either drastic reductions in services or increased local taxes, and

WHEREAS, elimination of these programs will act as a further disincentive for the formation of new boroughs and will likely result in the dissolution of many cities, and

WHEREAS, elimination of these programs disproportionately impacts the poorest and small municipalities because they have limited options available to them in terms of raising or levying new taxes, and

WHEREAS, elimination of these programs will further widen the gap between the "haves" and "have nots" in Alaska, and

WHEREAS, all states in the United States share revenues with municipalities within their boundaries, and

WHEREAS, Governor Hickel and others have argued that statehood itself was premised upon the continued sharing of revenues derived from commonly held natural resources because the framers understood that local taxes would never be sufficient to provide for adequate public services.

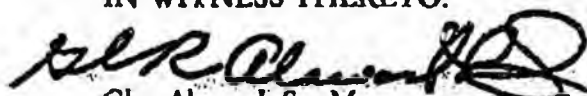
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lake and Peninsula Borough Assembly has found that further cuts to the State Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Programs are not in the public interest and would be poor and ill-advised public policy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assembly is strongly opposed to any further cuts to these programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assembly hereby urges the Alaska Legislature to continue to fund these programs at FY 99 levels.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Lake and Peninsula Borough Assembly this 13th day of April, 1999.

IN WITNESS THERETO:


Glen Alsworth Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:


Maria Shzwback, Borough Clerk



CITY OF POINT HOPE



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: *Senator Sean Parnell*

FROM: *City of Pt. Hope*

FAX NUMBER:
465-6592

DATE: *April 12, 1999*

COMPANY:
State Senate

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: *3*

PHONE NUMBER:

SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:

RE:

YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:

URGENT
 FOR REVIEW
 PLEASE COMMENT
 PLEASE REPLY
 PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS

P.O. BOX 169 • POINT HOPE, ALASKA 99766
 PHONE: (907) 368-2537 • FAX: (907) 368-2835