

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

1938

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1999 - 2000

April 06, 1999

Written Testimony from the City of Point Hope
Mayor Caroline P. Cannon
P.O. Box 169
Point Hope, Alaska 99766
Telephone: (907) 368-2537

In response to memos received from Department of Community and Regional Affairs and Alaska Municipal League informing each respective entities that will be effected by budget cuts focused on Rural areas dependent on the Department of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) for technical support needed throughout the year.

All small communities rely on DCRA for training new staff since the city entities have staff changes continuously, due to shortage of funds by the beginning of the year, or no increase of pay because the city budget is small that the village are unable to give any pay increases. Continuation of Regional Offices are vital to our community. Without our Individual Regional Offices we would not function the way the State of Alaska requires that the smaller villages operate with all the regulations and codes that the villages are required to keep up to date.

DCRA staff are our right arm and if you amputate our right arm we will become handicapped and you (the State of Alaska) will have to take major responsibility for our community. If that is taken away from us we would not be able to keep our pride and handle our own sovereign rights as a community. We require continuous advise from DCRA and over all training done by your staff under the Department of Community and Regional Affairs should be recognized.

I formally oppose the HB40 which would combine the Department of Community and Regional Affairs and the Department of Commerce. Combining these two would impact technical support we receive year round from DCRA. We require intense training since change overs in villages are like the seasons, and without DCRA here for us we would not have the ability to receive adequate training for staff and council members. This would be like slow suicide for villages. We are unable to increase pay or receive any health benefits and that is part of the reason for change overs.

DCRA not only assist us with the technical training but this department assists us with State Laws, Roles, and procedures. Knowledge and training on budget requirement, and accounting skills. If we have limited resources of applicants applying for a position - DCRA trains new hires on procedures and requirements, and accounting skills. Rural communities do not have funds to send every new hire out to train so DCRA assist us via telephone or onsite visits.

If you eliminate this resource from us we will have improper reporting done, accounting reports would not be correct, funds available to us would not make it to us. We strongly oppose HB40 and please do not make us handicapped.

Thank you.

Maureen Hawk for Caroline P. Cannon
Caroline P. Cannon, Mayor City of Point Hope

April 06, 1999

Written Testimony from the City of Point Hope
Mayor Caroline P. Cannon
P.O. Box 169
Point Hope, Alaska 99766
Telephone: (907) 368-2537

In response to memos received from Department of Community and Regional Affairs and Alaska Municipal League informing each respective entities that will be effected by budget cuts focused on Rural areas dependent on the Municipal Revenue Sharing Funds which is given by the State which may look like a minor portion to them but this fund is vital to our community. This is what the City of Point Hope depend on yearly to assist us in operational costs.

My opposition to eliminate the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program by the House Finance Committee is very strong and should not be taken from us. If the decision is made to eliminate this program you would be jeopardizing our ability to continue to keep our City Office open on a regular schedule. It is bad enough that we are facing dramatic budget cuts from all directions and these budget cuts are impacting us economically.

Please consider the small communities that rely on the Municipal Revenue Sharing Programs, we do need this funding so, please reconsider leaving this fund open for all Rural Communities. The State of Alaska wished for Rural Communities to organize a city government now you want to close the doors for the Rural governments? If these doors are closed we will have to consider going back to our tribal governments to continue serving our community.

We are requesting that the Municipal Revenue Sharing Programs not be eliminated! We the Rural Communities need this funding so please reconsider your direction you are voting for.

Thank you.

Mae K. Hanks for Caroline P. Cannon
Caroline P. Cannon, Mayor City of Point Hope



Alaska State Legislature

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

Greetings:

The devastating problems associated with using tobacco - smoking and chewing - must be addressed - now! With millions of dollars received from the heavy state tax (\$1 per pack) and the national tobacco settlement (\$25 million per year for 25 years), this money was originally intended to go toward FIXING Alaska's smoking addiction epidemic. More than 77% of Alaskans want to see the settlement go towards tobacco prevention and cessation programs. Alaska must take drastic action to reduce the use of tobacco especially in rural communities. Prevention now is a good investment. It is costly to have to medicate those suffering from the disastrous illnesses associated with tobacco users. Good prevention now means far less costs in the future.

The states of California and Florida are reporting excellent, positive results in reducing the use of tobacco in their states. Reporters indicate extensive media campaigns have contributed significantly to youth awareness and the reduction of use by youth can be directly attributable to the high profile media campaigns. These media campaigns are costly but not nearly as costly as having to treat those suffering tobacco-related diseases.

Those of us who strongly supported the increased state tax on tobacco did so with the belief a significant portion would be used to directly address the need to provide prevention/cessation information for youth and adults. As a community service, our TV stations in Sitka and Juneau contribute valuable television time to promote tobacco use prevention. We are also spending hours developing a CERTIFIED TOBACCO PREVENTION SPECIALIST program. It is going to take a lot more investment than providing a few PSA's in the media.

Please consider allocating at least \$8 million dollars toward tobacco control programs - a purpose for which the money has been received. As do most, I have several friends and family members haunted by tobacco addiction. Please do your duty by helping to keep others from beginning or continuing the use of tobacco.

Sincerely, Dr. Dan Etulain

Signed: _____

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

520 Lake Street, Sitka

Address

747-8200

Phone No.

Newhalen City Council

P.O. Box 165
Nimna, Alaska 99606
Phone (907) 571-1226

April 15, 1999

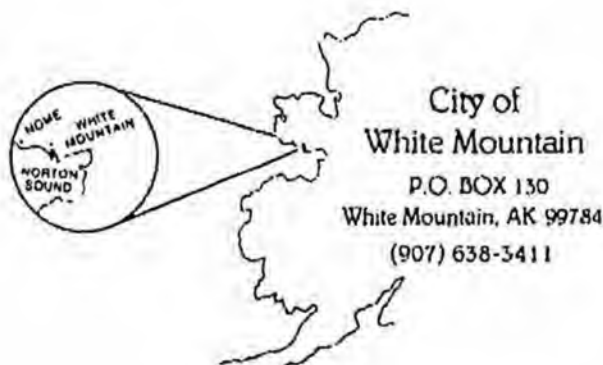
to: Senator Parnell and Senator Torgerson:

from: Jerry Clay 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.



April 13, 1999

Alaska State Legislature
Senate Finance Committee
State Capital Building
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Elimination of State Revenue Sharing Funding

To the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the residents of the community of White Mountain, we, the White Mountain City Council, wish to express our opposition of Representative Eldon Mulder's proposition to eliminate State Revenue Sharing funding during the next State fiscal year.

Though this very important funding has been cut by 70% during the past ten years, it remains the primary source of funding that enables the City of White Mountain, and indeed other rural municipalities, to operate on a daily basis.

For fiscal year 1999, the City of White Mountain received \$36,072.00 in State Revenue Sharing monies. To those representatives and senators from urban Alaska, this may not seem like a significant amount of funding, but for communities in rural Alaska, such as ours, which raise on average a total of \$7,000.00 in sales tax revenues, this is a vital source of funding.

Should this proposition pass, Alaska's poorest communities will be hit the hardest. The City of White Mountain heavily relies on State Revenue Sharing funding for over 65% of all General Fund revenues. In addition to the State Revenue Sharing funding, the monies from the Municipal Assistance program and the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program provide an additional 25% of General Fund revenues.

Without this funding, the City of White Mountain will not be able to provide even the most basic governmental services. Services such as public safety, roads and landfill maintenance will no longer be provided, and departments such as our Administration and Finance, City Council, Streets and Roads and Health and Welfare Services departments will be forced to shut down.

In conclusion, we would like to expound the fact that every state in the U.S. shares revenues with their municipalities because it's their sole responsibility to ensure that all of their citizens have access to basic public services. If the State of Alaska abandons its general revenue sharing responsibility, it will only widen the gap between Alaska's "have" and "have not" citizens, or basically its "urban" and "rural" communities.

SIGNED:

Mary D. Charles
Mary D. Charles, Mayor

SIGNED:

Daniel H. Harrelson
Daniel H. Harrelson, Vice-Mayor

SIGNED:

Thomas Gray FOR
Thomas Gray, Secretary

SIGNED:

James Bergamaschi, Jr.
James Bergamaschi, Jr., Treasurer

SIGNED:

Carl Brown
Carl Brown, Member

SIGNED:

Howard Lincoln FOR
Howard Lincoln, Member

SIGNED:

Lincoln Simon
Lincoln Simon, Member

ATTEST:

Esther Lincoln
Esther Lincoln, City Clerk

ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF

KING COVE SAND POINT AKUTAN COLD BAY FALSE PASS NELSON LAGOON

April 15, 1999

Senator Sean Parnell
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol – Rm. 518
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

by fax: 465-6592

Dear Senator Parnell:

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 99661
(907) 383-2099
(907) 383-3496 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: aaboro@gcl.net

FINANCE DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 49
KING COVE, ALASKA 99612
(907) 497-2588
(907) 497-2388 FAX

RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
211 4TH STREET, SUITE 314
JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 586-6855
(907) 586-6644 FAX
e-mail: gmerril@ptialaska.net
e-mail: beth@ptialaska.net

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!

FROM :

PHONE NO. :

Apr. 15 1999 03:59PM 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 you time and attention to this matter. We appreciate your support.

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 LeBates
TFC Assistant

Bridget Eason
TFC Coordinator

Janie Sierda
Teen Parent

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



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 Sean Parnell
Senate Finance Committee
Juneau AK 99811

Dear Senator Parnell:

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

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**

P.O. BOX 901
SAINT PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA
99660-0901
(907) 546-2331
FAX (907) 546-3188

**STATEMENT TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
BUDGET HEARING
APRIL 15, 1999**

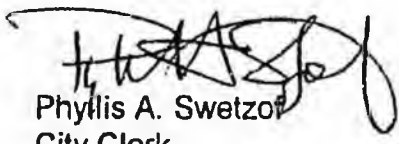
The City of Saint Paul would like to express their support to the Senate Finance Committee for the re-instatement of Safe Communities and Revenue Sharing funding. These two programs are crucial to small communities, vital to every city in Alaska. In some cases, the loss of this funding would cause hardship that could not be remedied.

St. Paul has been lucky this fiscal year with the opilio crab season and we expect to receive revenue not originally forecast in our budget workshops last fall. However, the City has been deferring maintenance on buildings, postponing projects, and was not wishing to continue to do so. We were thrilled that, fiscally, things were taking a turn for the better. Now we may have to consider postponing again. It is not cost-effective to postpone maintenance to the point of "replacement"! The City saving money to offset the municipal cuts that the Legislature is considering would create stagnation. It is also true that we could not save enough money from this year's tax earnings to even begin to cover more than one year of revenue sharing and municipal assistance cuts.

We find it hard to believe that the Legislators can sit in session considering this measure when they are all no doubt aware of the impacts this will have in their districts, in their home towns. Surely there are other programs to glean from that wouldn't have such a detrimental affect on the constituents. This is a statewide, fairly administered program that benefits each and every city in Alaska, that helps keep them solvent and secure, that provides reporting to the State, that provides incentive to search for locally generated revenue, and allows for consistent income.

Please don't take that away.

On behalf of the Council of the City of Saint Paul, sitting in Public Session 4/14/99:



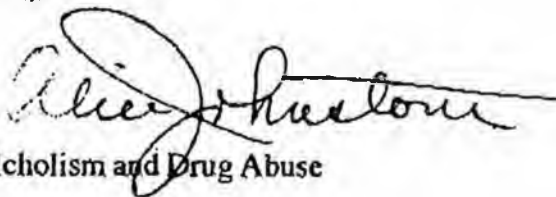
Phyllis A. Swetzer
City Clerk

PAS/me

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.

10 PACCO Industry Settlements for Medical and Education Prevention

4/15/99

Mary Campbell
preempt

Robert L. Conner

Thomas Long

James Rhodes

Debbie Cole

Lynne Feltner 262-1827

Chris Miller

APR-15-1999 14:17

Tobacco Settlement Industry FOR Medical - Education Prevention

Cheryl Best
 Kelly Johnson
 Lawrence Barr
 Pat Jones from
 Sherry Stang
 Richard A Johnson
 Cindy Fedman
 John O'Brien
 Vickie Stang
 Lawrence E. Storer
 Cheryl Allen
 Rose Marie Mathewson

260-3691
 283-6173
 262-5494
 262-9487

283-8131

262-7105
 776-7551

262-7524
 283-1984
 283-0976

V

Tobacco Industry Settlement - For Medical and Education Prevention

Arvina Jony

Angie L. Aseltone

Mark Vinson

Michelle L. Cofford

Aucinda Dyson

Jon J. Bush

Troy Sanders

Clarissa Florens

Timothy D. Doll
Dusti Hill

Robert K. Salvatore Box 1034 Kenai, AK 99611 283-1060

James F. Felt Box 153 Sterling, AK 99672 398-2552

Mark Outh 262-1596

Mark Outh Box 406 Sterling AK 99672 .. 262-1596

April 15, 1999

Mr. Sean Parnell
Senate Finance Committee

Dear Mr. Sean Parnell,

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. Rador
General
David Edwards
Territorial Commander
Terry Grinin
Divisional Commander

The Salvation Army

CLITHEROE CENTER

1709 S. Bragaw, Suite B
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

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 Sean Darnell - DATE: 4-15-99

AGENCY: - _____ FAX NUMBER: ~~365-2995~~

FROM: Shila Burk 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.

April 15, 1999

To: Senator Sean Parnell
Co Chair, Operating Budget
Fax Number 907-465-6592

I realize you need to make cuts in the budget, but do you have to rob the poor to give yourselves a raise?

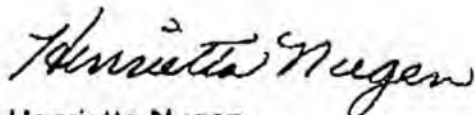
You have cut Municipal Assistance and that means that the Senior Citizens Tax Exemption will go by the wayside. I know that the state no longer funds this but the Boroughs or Municipalities do and with this resource gone the Seniors will lose this benefit. Although you all may believe we are all rich there are some of us who depend on social security and those who receive the Longevity Bonus are rapidly dying off. Some of us will never be eligible for the Longevity Bonus no matter how old we are so why put a needs basis on it?

You are cutting the Division of Alcoholism administrative costs, supposedly the cuts will be in Administration but the Division will find a way to cut programs that the people need and keep their jobs. The Treatment Program that serves the folks no one wants will be closed, because of the cuts in Treatment services that you are recommending. At the very least the services now offered will be less. The State of Alaska's biggest health problem and less treatment offered.

All you folks need to do is face the music and pass an income tax. Even us seniors, or at least this senior, will be happy to pay it. No it won't cover the total budget needs but it sure will make the cuts less in what it will bring in in the future years.

I am not to smart but i know that we need a ROBIN HOOD to save us from you members of the Sheriff of Nottinghams dudes.

These comments are my own opinion, I do not speak for any organization or other individuals.



Henrietta Nugen
P.O. Box 87-2735
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
907-745-5304
907-745-5165 Fax
l&h@matnet.com

Margaret E. Holland
13232 Sean Circle
Anchorage, AK 99516

April 15, 1999

Senator Sean Parnell
Co-Chair Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

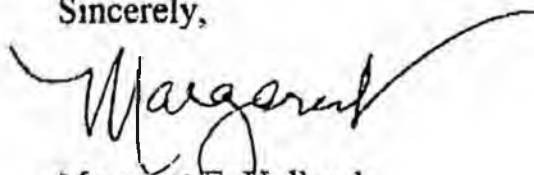
Dear Senator Parnell:

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

DIPLOMATE AMERICAN BOARD
OF PEDIATRICS

FELLOW AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF PEDIATRICS

KENNETH W. MOSS, M.D.

PEDIATRICS
1600 GLACIER AVENUE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

PHONE
(907) 588-1642
FAX 688-1849
HOSP. 586-2811

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

City of Soldotna

177 North Birch • Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • Phone: (907) 262-9107

Soldotna



Senators, this is Mayor Ken Lancaster from the City of Soldotna and President of the AML.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you this evening regarding our State's financial future.

We at the AML and ACOM are concerned that the Municipal Assistance/Safe Communities funding gets restored to full funding or at the very least, reduced no more than the rest of the State budget.

Also, we feel that the long range budget plan is what needs to be worked on; take parts, if you will, from the various plans that are available and blend the good or portions and produce a plan we can all buy into, one which produces the long range fiscally responsible budget that the citizens expect and deserve.

We are available to be a part of that process or discussion, as I'm sure all business and labor leaders around the State are, so that we can go into the next millennium with a positive, productive outlook.

Thank you again for this opportunity to speak with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Lancaster", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

4/15/99

TO: Senate Finance Members

From: Sara Hansen

Jeneau

586.9680

Maintain child care grants

and increase by 50%.



**City of
Ketchikan**

Gateway Center for Human Services

3050-3052 Fifth Avenue
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
907-225-4135/225-4154

April 14, 1999

To: Members of State Finance Committee,
From: Kevin Murphy, Deputy Director of Gateway Center of Human Services

As a professional and a citizen of the state of Alaska for the past twenty years, I have repeatedly seen the cost and impact of substance abuse on entire communities. The long term savings more than validate the need to support a viable treatment system for the people of this state. Dollars spent to support the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Women and Children's services result in multiple savings in the areas of Correction, Medical costs, Mental Health and Disability, Education and all most every area of Health and Social Services.

We the employees of the Ketchikan Gateway Center for Human Services urge you to not cut funding for the following programs:

1. Treatment programs for substance abuse and specially Women's and Children's services and the FAS programs.
2. The administration of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services.

Kevin Murphy

To: Mr./Ms. Finance Committee Members

Of Alaska State Legislature, Juneau

From: _____

Date: _____

Number of Pages: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: 907-465-6592

Remarks: Enclosed are letters in support of funding for the
Alaska Technical Center

Confidential

Urgent

Please Reply

For Your Information

Alaska Technical Center
-Post Office Box 51
-Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
FAX # : (907) 442-2764

If not received correctly. Please
Call (907) 442-3733

FAX



NATIVE VILLAGE OF KOTZEBUE - KOTZEBUE IRA

P.O. BOX 296 - KOTZEBUE, AK 99752

PHONE: (907)442-3467 • FAX: (907)442-2162

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: *Senate / House Finance Com.* FROM: *Pete Schaeffer*

FAX NUMBER: *907-465-6592* DATE: *4/15/99*

COMPANY: TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: *(2)*

PHONE NUMBER:

RE:

- URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

Original to follow in the mail Yes No

Noorvik Native Community
Noorvik IRA Council
Post Office Box 209
Noorvik, Alaska 99763-0209

Phone # (907) 636-2144 or 2224
Fax # (907) 636-2284

April 15, 1999

Finance Committee
Post Office Box 113000
Juneau, Alaska 99811-3200

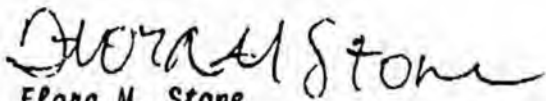
Finance Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Noorvik IRA Council and Staff. Working as an Administrative Assistant, and working for people who are interested in furthering their education. I see a lot of people who come in wanting financial assistance for a training that is held at the Alaska Technical Center from a one week to nine month training.

The Alaska Technical Center is the main training facility on our region. But our region isn't the only ones who attend the facility, we see a lot of people from Bethel area and even some from the Indian Country of Fort Yukon.

Our office is in support of the Alaska Technical Center in the full support of the State Funding.

Sincerely,
Jake Wells, President


Flora M. Stone
Administrative Assistant

"Our children are our future"

Native Village of Kotzebue Kotzebue IRA

Post Office Box 296, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752-0296

Tribal government serving the Inupiaq people of Qikiktagruk



April 14, 1999

Alaska State Legislature
Senate/House Finance Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Finance Committee Members,

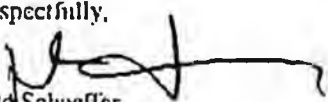
The issue of the non-funding of the Alaska Technical Center is particularly bothersome to our region as it is very poor timing.

As you well know, we are into year two of the removal of the Welfare program as we knew it. We believe that you would agree if the departing comment was "Good riddance" as we do. However, the transition from welfare recipients - (not all of Native Alaska are) - to something more self sustaining is not without problems.

For example, transitioning from welfare to work is a task that requires re-education, especially in a region such as Northwest Alaska that suffers from high unemployment as well as underdeveloped economic opportunities that raise the question of if or if not options such as jobs exist. We believe that the Alaska Technical Center is a critical part of any positive transition that would expect success as an option to what will happen if the funding for this facility were to cease. At the moment, we anticipate that were the Technical Center were to be eliminated, it would increase the possibility for the failure of emerging self sustaining successes that could be expected if the Technical Center were to continue to function.

We ask that you reinstate the level of funding necessary to operate effectively.

Respectfully,


Peter Schaeffer,
Executive Director

Cc:
Alaska Technical Center

The Qikiktagrukmiut, forever sovereign, will live our Inupiaq way of life for all generations.
PHONE: (907) 442-3467 FAX: (907) 442-2162 TOLL FREE: 1-800-442-3467

Flora M. Stone
Post Office Box 118
Noorvik, Alaska 99763

April 14, 1999

Finance Committee
Post Office Box 113000
Juneau, Alaska 99811-3200

Finance Committee:

My name is Flora M. Stone. Back in 1994-95 I went to Alaska Technical Center to further my education. I completed one year in the Office Occupation program. Being close to my home town, it was really comforting, since I had a baby who was with my parents. I was able to come home weekends at a low costs. It helped me by coming home occasionally. If I hadn't been so close to home, I would have gotten home sick and not do so well in school.

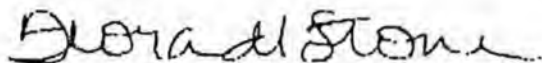
After completing my training at the Alaska Technical Center, I was able to find a job with my educational background. I started working full time on a permanent office position in September 1995 and have been employed since. Today I hold an Administrative Assistant Position at the Noorvik IRA Office.

I have been married for one year. My husband Larry wasn't able to go to training. He too is looking forward into getting a higher education in the Building Maintenance Program. But since we have two children, it would be hard for him to be away from home. We need him to be close to where it wouldn't cost so much for him to come home occasionally.

With this welfare reform going on, parents that have children and who are on welfare will need to find jobs and be able to support their families. It would be better if they went to school for a more better chance of getting a job.

Please put a full funding towards the Alaska Technical Center. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Flora M. Stone

NATIVE VILLAGE OF VENETIE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Established January 25, 1940

POB 81080
VENETIE, AK 99781-0080
(907) 849-8165/8978
FAX: 849-8097

POB 22079
ARCTIC VILLAGE, AK 99722-0079
(907) 587-5990
FAX: 587-5900

April 14, 1999

Dear Committee Members:

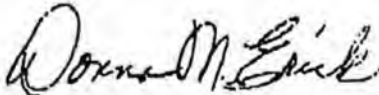
The Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government would like to express sincere concern that Alaska Technical Center has been stated to receive slated cuts to their operating budget.

Alaska Technical Center has been a vital link to employment for tribal members who have completed Alaska Technical Center training programs over the past several years.

On behalf of the Alaska Technical Center, the Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government strongly discourages any cuts to Alaska Technical Center's operating budget.

Thank you for your thoughtful reconsideration to cutting Alaska Technical Center's operating budget.

Sincerely,



Donna M. Erick
Tribal Administrator

cc: NVVTG Chief & Council

Arctic Village Council
P.O. Box 32089
Arctic Village, AK 99722-0059
(907) 587-6348 Fax: 597-5128

Venetie Village Council
P.O. Box 119
Venetie, AK 99781-0119
(907) 849-8212 Fax: 849-9149

Maniilaq Association

**P.O. Box 256
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-3311**

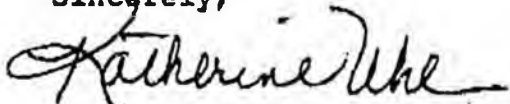
April 15, 1999

Dear Finance Committee Members:

The Northwest Arctic Borough has a continued need to train local health care providers such as Certified Nurse Aides and Personal Care Attendants. At the present time there is a need to train and certify more personal care attendants from the outlying villages to care for the elders who need health and personal care in their homes. The Alaska Technical Center provide the educational facility and instructor to train and certify nurse aides and personal care attendants for our Home Care Service.

We support the continued State education funding for the Alaska Technical Center.

Sincerely,



Katherine Uhl
Elder Services Coordinator
Home Care Services

MEMBER VILLAGES

*Ivisaappaat, Nunutchiuq, Ipnatchiq, Katyaak, Kivalintq, Laugviik, Qikiqtagnik, Nautaaq, Nuuvik, Akuligay, Istinaq
Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Klana, Kivalino, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noutak, Nuorvik, Selawik, Shungnuk*

April 14, 1999

Attention Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Finance Committee Members:

This is a letter of support for funding the Alaska Technical Center.

I am a 1997 graduate of the Alaska Technical Center. I took the Secretarial course. Before attending Alaska Technical Center, I had gone job hunting as the welfare reform began. Being 46 years old with only a GED getting into a position of any choice looked gray. The Secretarial course I took gave me the knowledge and confidence to get into the job force. Today I am employed at Alaska Technical Center, and INDEPENDENT (off welfare !!).

Sincerely,


Bonnie Nauska

TO: Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

FROM: Christine Jamin
421 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

RE: Support of the University of Alaska's budget request

DATE: April 16, 1999

I am writing to you to urge you to support the University of Alaska's budget request of \$16.3 million.

It is well documented that public investment in higher education yields a return of several dollars for each dollar invested. It is also common knowledge that most jobs in the 21st century will require some training beyond high school. Higher education promotes economic opportunities both for individuals and for the state as a whole. Numerous studies have shown that increased education is correlated with reduced criminal activity, lessened reliance on public assistance and increased civic participation.

In this country, each state has the responsibility to provide its populace with the opportunity for education. This is **not** an area that can be cut any further in Alaska. With lower oil prices and a reduction in oil development, an educated workforce is Alaska's **most important** natural resource.

I support using proceeds from the earnings reserve account as well as other funds available from the Permanent Fund program, including a cap on the dividend, to fund education, both K-12 and at the post-secondary level.

This is a time for legislators to make difficult choices. Please have the courage to take a **stand for education**. There is no better investment you can make for the future of our state.

FY00 University Funding

I believe you should provide the funding amount President Hamilton has requested. The University system has been taking cuts year after year and any more cuts and the future of the system will be jeopardized. Education is always a wise investment and should be planned out carefully. The University budget should be held as sacred as our Permanent Dividend fund. It's return will continue to benefit the future of our state.

Mary Burtness
King Salmon

FY00 University Funding

The University needs full funding of 16.3 million to provide quality educational services. This is important to people like myself who live in the Alaskan bush and depend upon rural campuses to provide higher educational opportunities which contribute to the health of our communities.

Tim J. Cook

Naknek

FY00 University Funding

Give the University full funding, 16.3 million as it has requested. Rural Alaskans need continuing education to stay competitive in the job market. WE get this from our University system.

Becky Savo
Naknek

FY00 University Funding

It's a sad day for a state like ours that ranks 48 out of 50 states in funding our university system--we should be ashamed of ourselves.

Our University system deserves no less than full funding--our university enrollees deserves the best our state can afford and that is full funding. Do you feel good about cheating your own children.

Donald F. Nielson
South Naknek



Southeast Alaska Seinners

April 15, 1999

Senator Sean Parnell
CoChair, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Rm 518
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Parnell,

I am writing in behalf of Southeast Alaska Seinners (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

thru: Debbie



Alaska State Legislature Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the S FIN Committee on
operating budget dated 4-15-99
(bill/subj) (Committee Name)

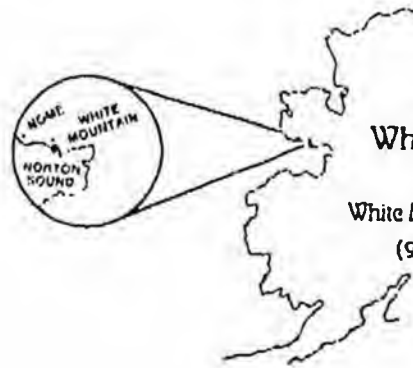
I'm glad to see the legislature attempting to balance the budget and at the same time trying to cut the cost.

Government is not supposed to take over where the private sector is available and many of the functions with in the government are not mandated government functions. Many agencies have usurped the powers that rightfully belong to the people, and this is wrong.

As for the agencies, they are no longer operating as the public servants they were meant to be, but monsters totally out of control. The budget process is the only way the legislature can bring the unruly, oversized government back under control. Remember, there are people who profit from corrupt and corrupt governments. They are employees and beneficiaries of such governments and they will defend that corrupt system even if it is self-destructing.

Good luck and I will stand by your budget cuts.

Denny Kay Weathers



City of
White Mountain

P.O. BOX 130
White Mountain, AK 99784
(907) 638-3411

April 13, 1999

Alaska State Legislature
Senate Finance Committee
State Capital Building
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Elimination of State Revenue Sharing Funding

To the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the residents of the community of White Mountain, we, the White Mountain City Council, wish to express our opposition of Representative Eldon Mulder's proposition to eliminate State Revenue Sharing funding during the next State fiscal year.

Though this very important funding has been cut by 70% during the past ten years, it remains the primary source of funding that enables the City of White Mountain, and indeed other rural municipalities, to operate on a daily basis.

For fiscal year 1999, the City of White Mountain received \$36,072.00 in State Revenue Sharing monies. To those representatives and senators from urban Alaska, this may not seem like a significant amount of funding, but for communities in rural Alaska, such as ours, which raise on average a total of \$7,000.00 in sales tax revenues, this is a vital source of funding.

Should this proposition pass, Alaska's poorest communities will be hit the hardest. The City of White Mountain heavily relies on State Revenue Sharing funding for over 65% of all General Fund revenues. In addition to the State Revenue Sharing funding, the monies from the Municipal Assistance program and the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program provide an additional 25% of General Fund revenues.

Without this funding, the City of White Mountain will not be able to provide even the most basic governmental services. Services such as public safety, roads and landfill maintenance will no longer be provided, and departments such as our Administration and Finance, City Council, Streets and Roads and Health and Welfare Services departments will be forced to shut down.

In conclusion, we would like to expound the fact that every state in the U.S. shares revenues with their municipalities because its their sole responsibility to ensure that all of their citizens have access to basic public services. If the State of Alaska abandons its general revenue sharing responsibility, it will only widen the gap between Alaska's "have" and "have not" citizens, or basically its "urban" and "rural" communities.

SIGNED:

Mary D. Charles
Mary D. Charles, Mayor

SIGNED:

Daniel H. Harrelson
Daniel H. Harrelson, Vice-Mayor

SIGNED:

Thomas Gray FOR
Thomas Gray, Secretary

SIGNED:

James Bergamaschi, Jr.
James Bergamaschi, Jr., Treasurer

SIGNED:

Carl Brown
Carl Brown, Member

SIGNED:

Howard Lincoln FOR
Howard Lincoln, Member

SIGNED:

Lincoln Simon
Lincoln Simon, Member

ATTEST:

Esther Lincoln
Esther Lincoln, City Clerk

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

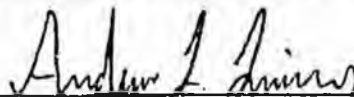
WHEREAS, SC/SRS is absolutely critical to the economy, education, health and safety of all Alaskans; so


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.

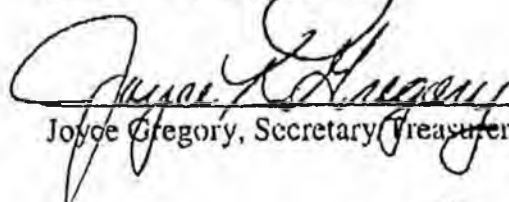
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KODIAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE that copies of this resolution be submitted to Governor Knowles, House Finance Committee Co-Chairs Representative Mulder and Representative Therriault, Senate Finance Committee Co-Chairs Senator Parnell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

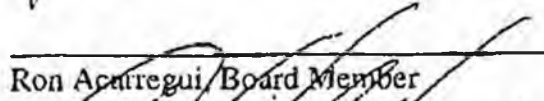
Board of Directors of the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce:

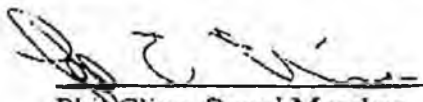

Andrew Tierney, President


Darren Franz, Vice President


Joyce Gregory, Secretary/Treasurer


Alan Schmitt, Past President


Ron Acutregui, 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



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

Wassie W. Balluta Sr.

ATTEST:

Jerry Clay for Debbie Grindle
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 #
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Wassie Balluta</i>	<i>4-6-99</i>	<i>Newhalen</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Glades M. Askerak</i>	<i>4-6-99</i>	<i>Newhalen</i>	<i>225</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Jeanne Wessile</i>	<i>4-6-99</i>	<i>Newhalen</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Bob Rychnovsky</i>	<i>4-6-99</i>	<i>Newhalen</i>	<i>114</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Georg Herberger</i>	<i>4-6-99</i>	<i>Newhalen</i>	<i>113</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Ron Williams</i>	<i>4-6-99</i>	<i>Newhalen</i>	<i>46</i>

SWAMC

RECEIVED
APR 15 1999
Senate Finance
Committee

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 Sean Parnell, Co-Chair,
Senate Finance Committee
Fax (907) 465-6592

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.**

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE



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 Sean Parnell, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 518
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Parnell:

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,

Glen K. Vernon
Executive Director

To: Mr./Ms. Senate Finance Committee

Of Alaska State Legislature, Juneau

From: Dan Snyder Jr., Executive Director
Manilaq Manpower, Inc.

Date: April 14, 1999

Number of Pages: 2

Phone: _____

Fax: 907-465-6592

Remarks: Enclosed is a letter in support of funding for the Alaska Technical Center

Confidential

Please Reply

Urgent

For Your Information

Alaska Technical Center
-Post Office Box 51
-Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
FAX # : (907) 442-2764

If not received correctly. Please
Call (907) 442-3733

FAX



Maniilaq Manpower

P.O. BOX 725
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA 99762

PHONE:
(907) 442-3880

April 14, 1999

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.

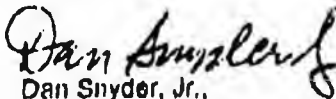
Maniilaq Manpower, being a funding agency for students from the Northwest Arctic Borough attending technical training, has had experience in funding students in a variety of schools, with a majority of those funded attending Alaska Technical Center. Currently, we are funding 22 students in technical 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



MANIILAM SAVAAKKRAOBIUOVIA
MEMBER VILLAGES

IVISAAPPAAT, NINATCHIAD, IPNATCHIAD, KATYAAK, KIVALINO, LAUVVIK, QIKIQTARUK, NAUTAAG, NUURVIK, AKULIQAD, ISINNAU
AMBLER, BUCKLAND, DEERING, KIANA, KIVALINA, KOSUK, KOTZEBUE, NOATUK, NOORVIK, SELAWIK, SHUNONAK

KIKIKTAGRUK INUPIAT CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 1050
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA 99752
PHONE: (907) 442-3165, FAX: (907) 442-2165

TELECOPY TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO FAX NO: 1 (907) 465-6592
FIRM: Juneau
ATTENTION: Finance Committee
DATE: April 14, 1999
FROM: Marc Van Dongen, President

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS SHEET: 2

This transmission is intended for the sole use of the individual and entity to whom it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. You are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or duplication of this transmission by someone other than the intended addressee or its designated agent is strictly prohibited. If your receipt of this transmission is in error, please notify this firm immediately by calling (907) 442-3165, and send the original transmission to us by return mail at the address above.

REMARKS:

The following is a letter of support for the Alaska Technical Center in
Kotzebue, Alaska.

RECEIVED

APR 14 1999

Senate Finance
Committee

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, OR DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES, PLEASE
CALL: Shirley Hammett AT (907) 442-3165.

KIKIKTAGRUK INUPIAT CORPORATION 373A Second Avenue • P.O. Box 1050 • Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-3165 • Fax (907) 442-2165

April 14, 1999

RE: Letter of Support for Alaska Technical Center

Dear Finance Committee, Juneau:

FAX: (907) 465-6592

Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation supports the Alaska Technical Center for all the training and different courses that they provide.

If it were not for the Alaska Technical Center, KIC would have to send employees as well as corporate members out of region for training.

ATC provides training that is necessary for people in our region to qualify for jobs available in our region. Many of KIC's employees and members have received training at ATC in a variety of areas, including, but not limited to: Boiler and Oil Burner Maintenance, Management Training Series, the Accounting Game, CPR, First Aid, Office Occupations, Dump Truck Driving, Commercial Drivers License, HAZWOPER Training, Asbestos Abatement, Fire Extinguisher and Inspection Maintenance, Board of Directors Training, et cetera.

As a result of recent KIC management meetings, we will be soon be giving much more emphasis on training our personnel in a variety of areas. Naturally, we would hope that ATC could provide assistance in this regard. Your support to continue funding for the Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue is essential to provide employment opportunities for our Native Shareholders.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Marc Van Dongen, President

cc: Alaska Technical Center
Board of Directors

Cut in Safe Communities Funding Means Property Tax Increase

Last week the House Finance Committee decided to eliminate \$47.8 million in funding for Safe Communities/Revenue Sharing, the intent of which is to support public safety- police and fire protection- in communities throughout Alaska.

What does this mean for Ketchikan? The City of Ketchikan currently receives \$607,000 per year in Safe Communities/Revenue Sharing funds. In addition, community agencies such as Ketchikan General Hospital, WISH, and Community Connections receive an additional \$95,600 in pass-through funds. Finally, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough receives nearly \$340,000 in Safe Communities/Revenue Sharing funds.

The elimination of Safe Communities/State Revenue Sharing Funding is not a real cut to state government on the part of the Legislature- it is literally "passing the buck." It means that, while state government remains the same, the City Council and Borough Assembly will have to make the tough decisions- either cut local budgets and services or raise local property taxes to compensate for the loss of state funding. For Ketchikan, I do not foresee any way that our public safety budgets could be reduced by over \$700,000 without significant reductions in both personnel and critical services for our community.

It is likely therefore that the City Council would be forced to consider the other alternative- raising property taxes. To compensate for the loss of Safe Communities/Revenue Sharing funds, the mill rate would increase at the City level from 6.4 to 7.5, a property tax increase of more than 17%! In addition, the loss of funds to the Borough equates to about .3 mill. For a City residence assessed at \$150,000, this would translate to an annual tax increase of \$210.

It should be noted that, due to cuts in Safe Communities/Revenue Sharing programs since 1986, the City mill rate is already about 16% higher than it would need to be otherwise. To put it another way, if the Safe Communities/Revenue Sharing funds are eliminated, it will mean that fully one-third of our local property taxes are a direct result of the legislative reductions to this program.

In my opinion, unlike some revenue-raising proposals which have been proposed, additional cuts in this program are made more unfair because their impact will fall entirely on Alaskans- not on the many nonresident workers who enjoy what Alaska has to offer, including municipal services.

The Safe Communities/Revenue Sharing program is the oil revenue giveaway. It was implemented in 1969- long before oil was a significant factor in Alaska's economy. Every state in the U.S. shares revenue with its municipalities. In the past ten years, the state of Alaska has cut Safe Communities/Revenue Sharing nearly 70%, while local taxpayers have simultaneously been forced to take over a larger share of school funding. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Alaska has increased their reliance on local property taxes more than any other state, while most states are decreasing reliance on property taxes.

Municipal leaders throughout Alaska understand that the state has a fiscal problem, and are committed to working with the Legislature to develop a long-range fiscal plan. The sudden, total elimination of Safe Communities/Revenue Sharing funds has not been part of anyone's proposed fiscal plan. Its surprise nature is not good planning at all, as it does not

allow local communities the time needed to properly assess the full impacts on local budgets and services and take appropriate measures.

At the same time, citizens in Ketchikan have not been calling for cuts in those municipal services- like police and fire protection- which could be directly impacted by the funding cut, nor in those services- like schools- which could be indirectly impacted if local property taxes are raised just to maintain the status quo.

In closing, the funding cut approved by the House Finance Committee simply transfers the state's revenue problem to us. We will either pay higher local taxes or see major cuts in local services. If you are concerned about the impact of the funding cut on our community, and want to see neither higher local taxes nor major cuts in critical services, I would urge you to contact our legislators in Juneau right away.

Bob Alekster



NEA-ALASKA

Affiliated with the National Education Association
NEA-ALASKA POSITION STATEMENT

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

Public school teachers, school employees and parents express our thanks to the Finance Education Subcommittee for prioritizing public school funding by increasing the recommended funding level for public education at a most difficult time. Teachers, school employees, and parents understand the difficult position the 21st Legislature finds itself.

Parents and school employees seek smaller classes for students, greater student proficiency with computers and challenging curriculum. They want their children to attend schools that are safe and are modern. They want schools to implement quality initiatives to improve learning and accountability.

NEA-Alaska has historically lobbied to present the case for funding Alaska's public schools. Preparation of children for the challenges of the new century is critical to the economic development of Alaska and its improved quality of life. Jobs of the future will demand that our people have special technical and academic skills to master new challenges. Public schools are teaching those skills today.

In 2010, today's first graders will have completed twelve years of instruction. Some of today's first graders are children "at risk;" some come from secure loving families, some don't; some require special education, some don't; some suffer from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, some don't; some come from dysfunctional families, some don't; and some experience domestic violence on a daily basis while some don't. The promise and responsibility of our public schools is to educate all children regardless of means or position in life.

Both parents and school employees recognize that problems confronting children in 1999 don't compare to the problems we experienced as children. The school of 1999 has a totally different set of challenges than the school of 1979 or '69 or '59.

In the past we have seen too many expectations demanded of our public schools that were not funded adequately. For the ten-year period 1983-1993, school enrollment in Alaska grew by more than 25,000 or slightly less than 26 percent. Alaska has historically ranked in the top ten states nationally in the percent increase in student enrollment from one year to the next. In 1983 Alaska ranked 8th nationally, and in 1996 we ranked fifteenth nationally in the percent change in public school enrollment from the previous year. In 1995, 22.5 percent of the state's population was 5-17 years old.

alternative programs. Even though districts hired more teachers, the pupil-teacher ratio increased. Alaska is a young state with many school-aged children. From 1997 to 1998 public school enrollment increased an estimated 1.92%. This represents the fifth largest percentage increase in the nation. The class size issue will remain for some time.

During 1987-88 when the new funding formula was put in place the Instructional Unit value was set at \$60,000 -- a level that was itself 8% lower than the rate of state support in the 1985-86 school year. The unit has been adjusted only one time -- in 1992, an increase of 1.6%. In 1998 a new formula was approved that funds instruction on a per student basis equal to \$3,940 with added funding for school size, district cost factor and special needs factor.

Even with this most recent increase, the costs of over ten years of inflationary have not been offset. For the 1996-97 school year the value of the instructional unit, after adjustment for inflation occurring since 1987 was worth \$45,888 in 1987 purchasing power. Inflation has been a cruel tax on educational opportunity. Even with the new formula the effects are felt.

To address inflation, NEA-Alaska has prioritized the need to inflation-proof funding for K-12 education. Failure to invest in our children will immediately shortchange their future and in time will shortchange our state's future.

The task of preparing our students for today and for the challenges of the new century is expensive, but the cost of not preparing them is greater. Our public schools, teachers, and school district support employees must continue to be successful in their efforts. By limiting necessary resources, the potential for success for every student is limited. Investment in our most precious resource - children - will cost a lot. However, if we don't spend our money on our public schools, we will be forced to spend even more on welfare, new prisons, jails, and public safety.

We applaud the courage of the Finance Subcommittee on Education, in light of the difficult time, to recognize the importance of a sound education system for Alaskans.

I want my daughter to have the opportunity to live with a stable population. One with some dedication to my home and hers.

I want to mention the Regents who run Alaska's University. They come from all walks of life and political persuasions. They are not employees. They do not get paid. They are volunteers who, to the person, come to learn that the mission of the University is vital to Alaska, the needs are under-funded, and that investment in higher education is the best investment Alaska can make.

In the last three years of real general fund cuts, I have heard all of the make-weight excuses about what is wrong with the University. The last was, "The University needs a leader with vision."

Well, the Board of Regents hired a nationally recognized leader, with real vision. He came, he studied, and he concluded that the University needs funding.

The subcommittee voted unanimously to fund the University at its real needs of 16.3. That validated the need that exists.

That need is an investment in Alaska, not an expense of government.

It may take vision,

It may take leadership,

It may even take courage,

But, as a lifelong Alaskan, I ask you to step into the role.

Have vision, show leadership, be courageous, do whatever it takes to fund the future of Alaska--fund the University.

Hi,

My name is Kelley Huse and I work for the Healthy Families Juneau program. I'm here to advocate for ~~maintenance of the program at current~~ ^{increased} funding ~~levels~~. I have worked with the program as a home visitor since it's inception 4 years ago ^{and} have seen an **on-going need for services** as we **continually must turn families away** because our program is full.

I've served 25-30 parents in those 4 years and have personally seen parents gain in confidence + ability as productive community members.

As a **former school teacher**, I am a strong advocate for **in-home support** to the primary caregivers of children aged 3 and under.

1. **Home visits** allow us to **learn first-hand about the conditions** of life for the family and to **respond** to them.
2. We are also able to **outreach isolated families** who ~~are~~ ^{would not} otherwise likely ~~not~~ access **valuable services**.

A key to our success is

Working with families very early on (**prenatally or within 3 months of the birth**)

1. We are able to **support parents in being the best parent they can**.
2. **Before patterns of abuse and neglect are begun** we can talk with parents **about the roots** of such patterns.
3. Most physical abuse occurs among young children below the age of 5, the majority under that age of 2.
4. Research tells us that the risk of abuse and neglect can be strongly reduced if a continuum of support and education are made available around the time of birth.
5. I've seen families who's behavior management tools were limited to spanking and yelling and who ~~are~~ ^{are} overwhelmed with the stress in their lives. They've stated that the consistent support of a home v. visitor has reduced their stress and taught them new ways to

Stress:

1. Universal
2. Manageable
3. Increases with lack of support, resources
4. Dangerous to the welfare of children and parents: destructive and self-destructive behaviors

(those normally considered "at risk" for child abuse + neglect)

What we see: families with **abundance of stress** ^{are} **getting support**, able to **provide for emotional and physical needs of children**.

Abuse/neglect rates of HFA participants far below national averages for population-at large.

some even go on to become mentors for other parents.

Using what we know from recent **brain research**, we can **provide** parents with **education** and **modeling** about the care of their children.

1. We now know that the **brain becomes hard-wired for survival** when needs are not met and when **safety is an issue**.
2. These children likely can **never recover from such traumatic beginnings**.
3. The good news is that **what the brain feeds on in the earliest years (consistent nurturing)**

CORRECTION

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



Rev. 6/98

Central Microfilm Services
Department of Education & Early Development
State of Alaska

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3. The good news is that **what the brain feeds on in the earliest years (consistent nurturing)**

Good evening Senators.

My name is Malinda Touis and I am a 15 yr. old parenting teen, attending Yakos Gei Daakahidi High School. It's very hard attending full time school and taking care of my 1 1/2 month old son. In the 13 months of support from my Healthy Families home visitor I am reaching these goals:

1) I am becoming the great parent I have always wanted to be.

2) Completing my goal of High School graduation

3) Also linkage to training beyond High School that will allow me to work in a living wage job.

Healthy Families will provide support to my family until my son is 5. I urge you to fully fund Healthy Families. My son will be in school in ~~5~~ short years. Having him arrive at school ready to learn, with a self-sufficient mother who is off public assistance will lead to a better outcome for my son. That money is well spent, and makes good sense for Alaska.

Thank you for your
Time



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SEIN
committee name
committee on HB 50, dated 4/15/99
bill # / subject

*Please submit the following
as written testimony for HB 50
as well as HB 21.*

Signed: Kenai LIO
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

HB AT Tobacco Tax needs to
 Go to Medical like you promised.
 All of it. 4/14/99
 Cop FAX 260-3697

260-4978

Jandra Boston Soldotna

260-3691

Steve Stauber, c.s.w. Homer

260-3691

Soldotna

300-3637

Muller's

262-5701

Soldotna

260-3691

Soldotna

260-3691

PO Box 808 Soldotna

330 Columbia Soldotna 262-3691

2426 Robert Kenai 283-9473

262-7070

Soldotna

260-3600

Soldotna

260-3691

Koala

260-3691

Soldotna

776-3411

Kenai

776-7610

Nikse!

260-3691

Soldotna

262-1543

Soldotna

260-3691

Soldotna

Mark Jensen
Selling Tobacco

Kenai
Kenai Board

Both Sides
Selling

Small Nook

Amstutz
Bill Case

Dennis Jensen

Get water

Ken Street
Nemo

J. Morgan

Steve Stauber, c.s.w.

Jandra Boston

TOTAL P.02

**HBAI Tobacco Tax needs to
GO TO Medical like you Promised
All of It 4-14-99**

Engle Steeline Soda 262-3906
Richard M Smith Soda 262-7732
John Hays Soda 262-0923
Debrah by Lockwood 262-9103

776-3411

260-3620

262-1207

283 9522

283-3837

Sam Johnson
Larry Dean
Jerry Allen Taylor
Jerry Shoberg
Thomas Taylor
Emilie Jannette
Michael T Hurbert
Curtis K Meyer

P.02

APR-14-1999 12:47

Public Opinion Message

Fairbanks Legislative Information Office (LIO)
119 N. Cushman St., Suite 101 • Fairbanks, AK 99701 • Phone: 452-4448 Fax: 458-3348

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

From: Please PRINT the information below.

Ms., Mr., Mrs.	Full name	ML	Last name	J. St. R.
MR.	WALLY		GUST	
Mailing address				Zip code
Box 72 - New Stuyahok, AK				99636
Residence (street) address if different from mailing address				Zip code
HUD # 19 IKIGAY STREET, New Stuyahok, AK				99636
District telephone number		Group affiliation (if applicable)		Signature
907-653-3173				Wally Gust
				Date
				4/14/99

To: Put a ✓ in the appropriate box(es). This form must be signed by the sender! ←

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			<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose		(LIO staff may modify):
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Juneau Montessori Center

750 St. Ann's Avenue
Douglas, AK 99824
(907)364-3535
FAX: (907)364-3537

April 16, 1999

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

F.E: Child Care Grant

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

I'm writing to urge the Senate Finance Committee to fund the Child Care Grant Program at at least its current level.

The impact of your recommendation to transfer all child care grant money to the assistance programs would be a devastating one for child care providers for the following reason:

The cost of running a child care service, whether in a home or a center, is way bigger than what the market could bare. In the Juneau Montessori Center tuitions represent 85% of our income. We currently charge \$550/mo. for children in the primary class, ages 3 -6; and \$575/mo. for the toddler program, ages 15 months - 3 years. We should be charging at least \$690/mo. and \$720 respectively.

These higher fees would only cover the current operating budget which includes wages starting at \$7.00/hr and no benefits - medical insurance, retirement plan, or any thing like that, for any of the staff members; and a very limited budget for supplies and materials.

In order to improve the working conditions of our staff and have also the appropriate budget for supplies and materials, we would have to increase the tuition fees another 30-35%. Who could pay \$930 to \$975 per month for child care?

Juneau Montessori Center's parents and staff contribute hundreds of volunteer hours working on fund raising, maintenance of the facility and in the classrooms preparing materials and the environment for our children, we also write grants and seek cash and in-kind contributions from individuals, businesses and corporations to balance our budget.

The Child Care Grant Program administered by the Division of Community and Rural Development, Department of Community and Regional Affairs, brings approximately \$9,000 per year to our school above and beyond tuitions. It represents roughly 2.5% of our income that can be used to cover part of our operations. It currently funds partially one of our staff positions, which, by the way, is required to maintain the adult-child ratio established by licensing.

If you were to put the additional funding into Public Assistance, would the number of recipients increase or would the amount they receive every month be increased?

If more people is expected to go to work, more children will need child care, how would you guarantee quality, safe care for those children? The Child Care Grant is currently the only incentive for small programs to be licensed. More and more home providers are choosing not to be licensed. Without the Grant, the number of licensed programs will drop considerably.

For the Juneau Montessori Center losing the Grant would mean having to raise tuitions since it would be very difficult for the school to replace that money through additional fund raising efforts. An increase in the level of tuition would affect all families particularly those with low income. And, if a raise in the tuition makes the school unaffordable and financially nonviable, we would be forced to close our doors. Then children and their families we serve would suffer for the lack of quality child care and early childhood education and the 14 members of our staff would be unemployed.

We would like you to reconsider and to actually increase the level of the Child Care Grant by 50% as the Governor proposed in his budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lupita Alvarez Botelho
Executive Director

P.S. Alaska's children deserve quality and safe child care. Child Care Providers deserve decent wages. Augmenting the Child Care Grant would help somewhat to improve in these areas.

Fax Transmittal Cover Sheet

To: Co-Chair Sean Parnell, - Senate Finance

Ruth & Carl Benson Carl S. and Ruth Benson

1-907-455-6912 907-455-6912

Date: Fri, Apr 16, 1999 • 5:31 PM

Pages, including cover: 2

If there is difficulty with this transmission, please call: [907] 479-6912 907-479-6912

Note:

University Funding

Please start rebuilding the University of Alaska. I urge you to fully fund the President's request for the U of A budget. Earnings from Alaska's investments are available and we must use them for the financially starved necessary state agencies.

CITY OF KETCHIKAN
City Manager's Office
334 Front Street

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

FACSIMILE

Date: April 16, 1999
Pages (+ cover): 2

TO: Governor Tony Knowles-----465-3532 Drue Pearce, Senate President--465-3872 Brian Porter, House Speaker----465-3834 Senator Robin Taylor-----465-3922 Representative Bill Williams----465-3793 House Finance Committee-----465-6813 Senate Finance Committee-----465-6592, 465-4779, 465-6595 Phone: Facsimile: see above numbers cc:	FROM: Karl Arnylon, City Manager Phone: (907) 228-5603 Facsimile: (907) 225-5075
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REMARKS: URGENT FOR YOUR REVIEW REPLY A.S.A.P. PLEASE COMMENT

Attached please find a copy of:

City of Ketchikan, Resolution No. 99-1936

Re: Council of the City of Ketchikan strongly opposes the elimination by the State of Alaska in Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Programs as the elimination of such funding is simply a shift of costs to local communities, not a real reduction in the State budget.

Please contact Linda at 228-5603 if you have problems receiving this facsimile.

CITY OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 99-1936

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KETCHIKAN, ALASKA OPPOSING THE ELIMINATION OF STATE OF ALASKA REVENUE SHARING AND SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAMS AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is proposing to deal with part of its budget crisis by eliminating the Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Programs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ketchikan General Fund has been programmed to receive \$204,000 in Revenue Sharing and \$403,000 of Safe Communities funding from the State of Alaska in 1999; and

WHEREAS, if both programs are terminated, the City's General Fund stands to lose a total of \$607,000; and

WHEREAS, an additional loss in Revenue Sharing that the City is required to pass through to certain health care facilities in the community is estimated to total \$95,600 for 1999; and

WHEREAS, reductions in the funding of these programs in prior years has already resulted in higher local taxation; and

WHEREAS, the loss of such funding will either result in significant reductions to essential municipal and critical health care services, or result in significantly higher taxes and fees for the citizens of Ketchikan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska as follows:

Section 1. The Council of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska, strongly opposes the elimination by the State of Alaska in Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Programs as the elimination of such funding is simply a shift of costs to local communities, not a real reduction in the State budget.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 15th day of April, 1999.

Bob Weinstein
Bob Weinstein, Mayor

ATTEST:

Katherine M. Suiter
Katherine M. Suiter
City Clerk

I support every effort to reduce government both in size and spending, this is a rare opportunity to choose between wants and need's. I believe 80% of our state government could disappear and we would be better for it.

I am a 70-year-old citizen, resident for forty years, I live in a city and borough-taxing district, self employed, no retirement funds, I have long advocated less government. If it will reduce government size and scope I am ready for elimination of my \$50,000 borough senior tax exemption, longevity bonus. Any and all property tax exemptions. I will welcome less social services (especially alcohol related).

Elimination or reduction of any or all programs, complete elimination of departments to numerous to list here, I was especially encouraged by proposal cut of \$600,000.00 for land planning, we have funded this bureaucracy for 30 years with nothing in return.

We need good road's, past cuts have been on wrong end, cut beaurocrates instead of the wonderful guys and gals that do the work. We need good schools not run as social engineering experiments.

I encourage 100% elimination of municipal assistance, it's time we citizens get to choose. I ask you not to disturb permanent fund distribution as I believe it is extremely important to larger family's, especially those in out lying villages and towns.

As for retirement, I intend to work till unable, then I expect my children to care for me to the end.

The Mayor's crusade for funds do not speak for me.

Respectfully I am,

Harold A. Jackson

Deadbeat parents' lack federal time

By Richard Wolf
USA TODAY

Parents who run from their obligations to pay child support now risk more than sliced paychecks or suspended driver's licenses.

Under a new federal program, they can get arrested at gunpoint and thrown in prison.

Operating in seven states and the District of Columbia, the program combines a computer network with the crime-fighting talents of police and U.S. marshals. The point is to nab parents who cross state lines to avoid supporting their children. More than 200 arrests have been made so far, which could bring in \$3.8 million in overdue child support.

The program, an outgrowth of last year's federal "Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act," allows agents working for the inspector general's office of the Department of Health and Human Services to carry guns and issue arrest warrants.

Since it started last spring, the program has nabbed some notorious "deadbeats." A former Border Patrol agent who quit his job and moved from his children was arrested at his scuba school in Hawaii. A lawyer and plastic surgeon was arrested in New York on charges that he owed more than \$172,000. A police chief was arrested in Wyoming on charges of failing to pay child support in New York.

This month, a man in Fairfax, Va., got a 20-month prison term for failing to pay \$106,000 to his three children. The man had fled from authorities twice, once to Israel and once to Galveston, Texas, where he was arrested.

"These parents did not walk away from their families, they ran," says Wallace Dutkowski, director of Michigan's child support office.

Nationwide, less than 25% of the \$60 billion owed in child support is collected. Nearly one-third of the money must be

tracked across state lines. About 30 million children depend on child support.

Legislation will be introduced in Congress today would take child support enforcement duties from states and give them to the Internal Revenue Service, which already collects about \$1 billion annually in child support tapping parents' income tax funds. The legislation has failed to advance in Congress in previous years.

In the meantime, the federal government has recently mandated a 50-state computer network and a method of tracking newly hired workers through their employers. Even so, most clever child support evaders remain elusive.

"You still have to have a penalty for not paying," says Jo Hartwig, deputy inspector general for investigations of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Under the new federal program, parents with child support debts of at least \$5,000 can be imprisoned for up to five years if they cross state lines.

Officials in Michigan, Oregon and Illinois, where the program began last year, say the fire of arrests leads more parents to pay what they owe. The program was expanded this year to include Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia. It will be expanded to 10 more states later this year: Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Indiana, Minnesota, New York, New Jersey, California, Oregon and Washington.

One of those helped by the program was Joy Marriage, who has been unable for most of the past 15 years to collect child support from her husband. Federal agents seized him in Washington state last year by breaking into his apartment. "I would have loved to have been there," Marriage says. A judge ordered the father to pay all \$19,000 he owes while on probation for the next five years.

Much child support still owed

Despite an increase in the number of child-support cases that are resolved, the percentage of cases in which money is paid is still small. Fewer than one in four cases result in payments.

Number of cases in which	Number of cases in which	Percent of cases in which
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City of Soldotna

177 North Birch • Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • Phone: (907) 262-9107

Soldotna



April 16, 1999

Via Fax: (907) 465-6592

Senator Sean Parnell, Co-Chair
Senator John Torgerson, Co-Chair
And Members Senate Finance Committee
5th Floor, Room 520 Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Operating Budget

The Mayor, Council and I ask your support for maintaining local government funding in the state budget.

SC/RS remains a vital component of local government funding. I believe it to be an appropriate method of distributing funds to insure services to citizens of the state. Large cuts jeopardize transportation, health and public safety functions provided within the state by cities and boroughs. Where reductions must be made, the cuts should recognize the value of local services and not pass the burden of cuts on to local governments disproportionately as has been done in the past, and is now adopted by the Alaska House of Representatives.

Local government funding has already been reduced by over 50% in the last 10 years, while the state budget has not been reduced similarly. Past studies show duplicated functions by state agencies, yet no state cuts are there. This disproportional treatment needs to stop.

For Soldotna, the cuts made by the house would reduce the City budget by \$325,000 between 6-7% of the total revenue. While not as disastrous as the cuts to some smaller communities, this would seriously impact the City. We would have to look at a tax increase of 1.37 mills or to reducing services. Service reductions could include reducing library hours, stopping snow removal on the shoulders of the state highway (not currently done by the State maintenance crew), cutting back on police, reducing library hours, cutting back on snowplowing and less cleaning of storm drains that empty into the Kenai River. While we consider some reduction probable, nothing of this magnitude was anticipated.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Boedeker
City Manager

Cominco Alaska Incorporated/Red Dog Mine/P.O. Box 1230/Kotzebue, Alaska 99752/Tel. (907) 426-2170



A Subsidiary of Cominco American Incorporated

VIA FAX: 907-465-6592

April 16, 1999

Senator Sean Parnell
Co-Chair, State Senate Finance Committee
PO Box 110804
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0804

Re: Alaska Technical Center

Dear Senator Parnell:

I am asking you to please reconsider the elimination of funding for the Alaska Technical Center.


The Alaska Technical Center is a key component in the education and training structure for the Red Dog Mine. Since January 1997 Red Dog has used ATC exclusively as the training location of choice for all of our apprentice training.

Prior to using ATC we trained at AVTEC in Seward. Red Dog received only 25% return on our students sent to Seward. A 75% non-completion rate was exceeding expensive and frustrating. The success rate at ATC has been 90%. Additionally, by having the facility close to us, we can participate in the education that our apprentices are receiving. We are receiving a much better product than we were from AVTEC.

To fully fund AVTEC and turn your backs on ATC is not understandable. Mining is becoming the new economic engine in Alaska and ATC is contributing to this economic growth. This facility has kept its commitment to the state to upgrade its classes and produce quality graduates. In return the state now chooses not to keep its commitment to northwest Alaska.

The Red Dog Mine has benefited and greatly appreciates the past funding to ATC. Please reconsider this unjustified cut and help me fund a very successful technical center.

Sincerely yours,



John L. Key
General Manager, Red Dog Operations

CORRECTION

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



Rev. 6/98

Central Microfilm Services
Department of Education & Early Development
State of Alaska

Cominco Alaska Incorporated/Red Dog Mine/P.O. Box 1230/Kotzebue, Alaska 99752/Tel. (907) 426-2170



A Subsidiary of Cominco American Incorporated

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Co-Chair, State Senate Finance Committee
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Sincerely yours,

John L. Key
General Manager, Red Dog Operations

McCONAHY, ZIMMERMAN & WALLACE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4678
Phone (907) 452-2211 • Fax (907) 456-1137

WINSTON S. BURBANK
wburbank@polarmet.com

LEW COUNNELL
PAUL A. BARNETT

April 16, 1999

Members of the Alaska Legislature

RE: Full Funding for the University of Alaska

Dear Senators and Representatives:

I am writing this letter to state my support for full funding of the University of Alaska. I realize in these relatively tight economics times that you are all faced with very difficult decisions, but as a State that relies on resource development, it is essential that we invest in the most valuable resource found in the State, the intellect of our youth.

As a student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the mid to late 1980's, I watched the University take repeated economic hits from which it has yet to recover. In order to develop our intellectual resources and keep our daughters and sons in Alaska, it is essential that the University be funded on a level that allows it to recover from the past under-funding, and compete with other state universities for our children.

I look forward to the day that my four children will attend the University of Alaska and ask that you permit the University to thrive by providing full funding for the next fiscal year.

Very truly yours,

McCONAHY, ZIMMERMAN & WALLACE



John Foster Wallace

JFW/ljd

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

April 16, 1999

From: Tom Stimpfle,
POB 81428
Fairbanks, AK 99708

I understand you are proposing to cut one million dollars from the DNR Division of Land's budget. Such a cut would cripple the division with the loss of 20-25 positions statewide.

DNR is a big revenue generator for the State. Does it make sense to cut a department that actually brings in money? Those who will suffer are YOUR CONSTITUENTS, and they will come to you for answers.

In particular I ask you, "do NOT cut the \$726,400 for DL's budget for planning and coordination with other agencies. Restore this money. If you feel you have no alternative but to cut DNR, instead cut money from the list of options the DNR Commissioner has identified as not mandated by the Alaska Statutes and thus are not integral to the workings of DNR.

Planning and coordination protect both the state and the client from litigation --- the left hand knows what the right hand is doing. Without land plans DL would have no direction for wise, best value use of the State's natural resources, nor consistency in decision making. Without coordinating with other agencies, DL would be working in the dark, in a vacuum, with the State's natural resources at risk. The Federal government would roll over us.

Why would you want to cripple your revenue generator?

Instead of continuing to cut revenue-generating departments, please focus on how to generate income that will save our quality of life and our University, wherein the State's future lies.

I suggest you cap the permanent fund dividend so that a certain percentage of the dividend will always go to individual residents and the remainder go to funding the services and education which make Alaska a quality place to live.

Sincerely,

Tom Stimpfle

Tom Stimpfle

Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 65 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska
P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 / Telephone (907) 424-3447 / Fax (907) 424-3430

April 16, 1999

Senator Sean Parnell, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol
MS 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

SENT VIA FACSIMILE TO 465-6592

Dear Members,

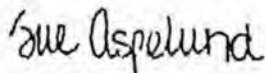
Cordova District Fishermen's United (CDFU) is an organization comprised of Prince William Sound and Copper River fishing families dependent upon the excellent management of our fisheries provided by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

We would like to impress upon you our grave concern over your proposed cuts to the ADF&G budget.

Since the majority of General Fund dollars allocated to ADF&G are located within the Commercial Fisheries Division, whether you intend it or not, the majority of cuts to the Department will be borne by that Division. The proposed cuts to the Department will, in fact, gut the Comm Fish Division. The result will be fisheries managed conservatively to provide for escapement and subsistence uses, and both harvest and production will necessarily suffer. Our fisheries will be unable to generate the revenue that fishermen, their families and crews, coastal communities and indeed, the State, depend upon. In a time of declining oil revenues, it makes little sense to jeopardize a renewable resource industry which puts money **INTO** the coffers of the state, and which has been a vital component of the State's economy for a over a century.

We are certain that once your attention is called to the economic counterproductivity of these cuts to the the State, the coastal communities, and the fishing industry, you will restore funding to ADF&G, at least to the level passed by the House. Unfortunately, the funding mechanism you are depending upon--contractual agreements with the federal government to manage subsistence--is uncertain and not responsive to the funding needs of Alaska's fisheries.

Respectfully submitted,



Sue Aspelund
Executive Director

cc: Representative John Harris
Senator Morganna Lincoln
House Special Committee on Fisheries

McCONAHY, ZIMMERMAN & WALLACE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MICHAEL P. McCONAHY
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WINSTON S. BURBANK
wburbank@polamet.com

OF COUNSEL
PAULA A. BARRETT

16 April 1999

Members of the Alaska Legislature

RE: Full Funding for the University of Alaska

Dear Senators and Representatives,

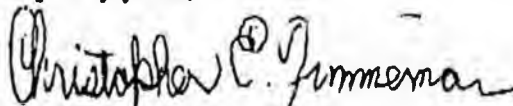
I am writing in response to recent reports that the Finance Committees in both Houses have not provided for full funding of the University of Alaska's budget request. I believe this action to be short-sighted. Nothing in the State Budget is more important than the educational opportunities for our young people. Flat funding of the University will lead to a further decline in the services offered by that institution and a further diminution in the quality of instruction and the ability of the University to serve Alaska's people.

The University provides not only educational but cultural opportunities to Alaska's residents. It provides both technical and academic learning opportunities in our rural areas. In Fairbanks the Fairbanks Symphony and the University Summer Fine Arts Camp are prime examples of the benefits of a quality university.

Without increased funding to allow replacement of faculty, repair of facilities and expansion and continuation of programs, the University System will wither. I believe that this should not be permitted to happen. We need a first rate University System. We need the research, career training and educational opportunities together with the enrichment of our lives that the University provides to all of us.

I urge each of you to support full funding of the University's budget. You have a choice. You can be penny wise and pound foolish and decide you can worry about the University's problems tomorrow or you can use foresight and fully fund now. I urge you to do the latter and provide for the many needs that our fine University System currently has. I guarantee that it will cost less to do it now than to try to fix the problems which will be caused by inadequate funding later.

Very truly yours,



Christopher E. Zimmerman

McCONAHY, ZIMMERMAN & WALLACE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MICHAEL P. McCONAHY
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I urge each of you to support full funding of the University's budget.

Very truly yours,


Michael P. McConahy

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

April 16, 1999

From: Nancy L. Rabener, POB 81428, Fairbanks, AK 99708

Let me begin by saying I realize you have a difficult task in dealing with the State's deficit. I'm concerned that you don't realize the tangible impacts of some of your proposed cuts, in particular the \$1,000,000 cut to the DNR Division of Land.

I am an 11 year employee with the Division of Land (DL), Northern Region (NRO) in Fairbanks. I am 1 of 12 Natural Resource Officers who issue land use permits, leases and sales which facilitate development of the state's natural resources. We manage all the state land north of the Alaska Range, from the Canadian border to the Bering and Arctic Seas. Through previous budget cuts we are down to only one third of our 1985 staff.

The DNR is one of the State's biggest revenue generators. The Division of Land, NRO, brings in \$360,000 per year from north slope material sales alone. The finance committee's proposed \$1,000,000 cut would mean the loss of at least 2 more positions from our Fairbanks office. This loss would decrease the amount of revenue we can bring to the state. Does cutting your revenue generator to save revenue make sense?

I notice \$726,400 of the cut has been targeted from DL's budget meant for "Allocate / Planning Land and Resources". I suggest you not make this cut, but reinstate this money. Instead, cut other options that the DNR Commissioner has identified and that are not mandated by the Alaska Statutes and thus are not integral to the workings of DNR.

"Allocate / Planning" includes all the interagency coordination and planning required to both defend the State's interests and issue authorizations. They are not separate from DL's function in authorizing use of state land, they're an integral part of the process. DL works with other state, federal, municipal or Native agencies for every authorization (permits, leases, sales) for people and businesses to use state land - that coordination facilitates authorizations for use of state land and protects both the state and the client from litigation --- the left hand knows what the right hand is doing. DL is wisely required to use land use plans as guides in decision making. The plans promote best value use of natural resources and give consistency to our decisions. If DL could not plan, or coordinate with other agencies, then the DL could not defend or properly develop State's interests. The Federal government would roll over us.

It would be like many football teams trying to play ball on the same field at the same time without any game plan or communication with each other. Imagine the outcome. It would be chaos. Alaskan land is the field, the agencies are the teams. If the agencies were not planning or coordinating they 1) would not know where they were going, and 2) would be working AT ODDS with each other, each aiming for their own goals and each losing out.

Some of the more visible planning and coordination functions are:

- 1) Authorizations - For every authorization for people and businesses to use state land DL coordinates with other agencies and uses the land plan as a guide.
- 2) GVEA Intertie - DL represents state land interests in the interagency decisions for choosing the route, developing the access, and issuing the authorizations for the Intertie
- 3) Fire Protection Levels - DL representatives work with the State, Federal, and Native Corporation fire managers in changing fire protection levels that can save the State money.
- 4) MFS Fiber Optic Cable - DL coordinated with other agencies in developing and authorizing access for the fiber optic cable.
- 5) Alaska Coastal Zone Management Program - DL must coordinate and plan with the Federal government in order to issue authorizations for land use in the coastal zone
- 6) Dalton Highway Plan - DL works with the Federal government and Native corporations to facilitate development of the Denali Highway corridor. No coordination = no development
- 7) Denali Park Gateway - DL works with the National Park Service, the Denali Borough and other agencies to facilitate development and thus relieve growth issues for the Denali Park gateway communities.
- 8) Denali Park North Access Feasibility Study - DL represented the state in plans to develop access to Denali Park via a northern route and potential railroad. No coordination = no state interest protected or developed.
- 9) Municipal Entitlements - DL coordinates with municipalities to convey to them their land selections so that they can carry on with their own resource development.
- 10) Nonana River Access - DL coordinates with the National Park Service and other agencies to assure public access to and development of facilities for the Nonana River.

Instead of continuing to cut revenue-generating departments, I'd like to see the legislature focus on how to generate income that will save our quality of life and our University, wherein the State's future lies. I suggest you cap the permanent fund dividend so that a certain percentage of the dividend will always go to individual residents and the remainder go to funding the services and education which make Alaska a quality place to live.

Thank you for your consideration, Nancy Rabener





Earl H. Beistline

Mine Consultant

P. O. Box 80148
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Telephone: (907) 479-6240
FAX: (907) 479-0176

April 16, 1999

Please send the attached letter to the following:

1. Alaska Senate, Finance Committee
2. Alaska House of Representatives, Finance Committee
3. John Davies
4. Gary Wilken
5. Tom Brice

Thank you,

Earl H. Beistline
Earl H. Beistline