

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

2000

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1999 - 2000



STATE OF ALASKA/ LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

Legislative Administrative Services

Petersburg Legislative Information office

PO Box 1470 Petersburg, AK 99833

Phone: 907-772-3741 Fax: 907-772-3779

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: Representative Mulder

FAX: 907-465-6813

DATE: March 3, 2000

MESSAGE: Written testimony from Julie Hursey on HB 312, TCN 10452, March 4, 2000.

March 3, 2000

Dear Representative Mulder;

I am writing to urge you to maintain present funding levels for Public Radio in Alaska. The radio stations in small, remote communities like mine are a lifeline to the world. They provide not only national and international news but also keep us informed of what is going on across our sprawling state.

In rural Alaska, not everyone has access to cable television and some people cannot afford it. Their sole source of news and weather forecasts is from their Public Radio station. It provides a vital link between people living in isolated Alaskan communities. Besides providing news people without access to phones are able to communicate over the airwaves with messages that are aired at regular times. Public Radio provides weather and safety advisories that are essential to the well being of our town.

Besides all the other services that our radio station provides it is also the center of our community. How else would we find out about the activities in town or the time of public meetings? Who else is going to let people know the roads are icy and that the school bus will be late picking up the kids "out the road", or that the black lab with the purple collar has been found? Where else can people as young as ten and as old as eighty-three entertain the town with radio programming?

There has been talk that the money taken from Public Radio will be given to the "frail and elderly". Well, who took money away from the frail and elderly in the first place? Tell them to give it back. Besides, the elderly in our town listen to KFSK all the time and are some of our staunchest supporters.

Public radio has taken lots of cuts in previous years and at this point is operating on a shoestring. If you came to our station you would see the skeleton staff and the equipment held together by duct tape. Signs of scrimping and saving are evident everywhere except on the airwaves where the quality of programming remains high. We are proud of our station and our town works hard to support it during fundraisers but we cannot keep it going alone. Please save Public Radio by maintaining the present level of funding. Do not cut the funding. It is too important to our town and others like it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Julie Hursey

Petersburg, Alaska

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: STATE OF ALASKA, HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
 ATT: MEMBERS
 FAX #: 907-465-6813

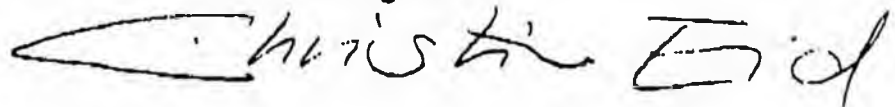
FROM: CHRISTINE EID
 COMPANY: NOMAD ART AND DESIGN
 FAX #: 907-346-4439
 PHONE #: 907-346-3958 (CHRISTINE EID)
 907-333-1146 (NANCY BORG)

DATE: 3-3-2000

PAGES: -1-
(INCLUDING COVER)

NOTES:

There are millions spend to attract visitors, yet elemenate the little amount spent to protect people who produce authentic Alaskan products to sell to ose tourists? Please restore funding to the Made in Alaska Programm.



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To:

ALL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Please do not cut funding
for the MADE IN ALASKA
Program! I make jewelry pins
with real fur on them, and
I would hate to see them
reproduced by somebody in
TAIWAN and then sold in
ALASKA! Thank you—

(337-0081)

Yvonne HALL
Anchorage, Alaska

Export Council of Alaska



March 3, 2000

The Honorable Eldon Mulder and
The Honorable Gene Therriault
Co-Chairmen
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representatives Mulder and Therriault:

The Export Council of Alaska is a statewide non-profit group of business leaders who understand and promote the value of international trade. In the 1960's Alaska showed its keen understanding of the importance of international trade by being the first state to open a Tokyo office. The Council feels it is essential to continue to demonstrate that understanding by providing necessary support today for the State's Division of International Trade & Market Development (DITMD) programs.

Alaska businesses benefit from overseas representation and programs that DITMD provide. The Council is concerned about the effects on our key trading partners under the House Finance subcommittee's plan to close Alaska's DITMD overseas offices in Japan and Korea. The state's business culture values government involvement, promotion and representation.

The Council urges that you not put Alaska at a disadvantage in global competition by closing overseas offices in Japan and Korea and by eliminating the state's trade and research spending in Alaska. We ask that you provide funding at last year's level for these important international trade programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles R. Webber".

Charles R. Webber
Chairman



BY FAX ONLY

Friday, March 03, 2000

Rep. Eldon Mulder, Co-Chair House Finance
Rep. Gene Therriault, Co-Chair House Finance

Eldon and Gene:

I was in Juneau last Tuesday. If I had realized the impact of cutting the International Trade Budget so drastically I would have tried to see you on Tuesday. I was there to update Ramona Barnes/John Cowdery's Committee on World Trade on ASI's substantial growth.

Although ASI is concentrating on domestic US production this year, we are also working with customers in the Pacific Rim. As the largest seafood facility in the US we are ramping up to our full 125,000,000 pounds of value added seafood production. The Pacific Rim represents markets for ASI products 34 times the total seafood consumption of the US.

International Trade and Development has opened a number of doors for us. With their help we have just quoted on 60,000 to 100,000 daily seafood meals for Korean Airlines, Asiana Airlines, Samsung and Hyundai. I cannot imagine more valuable help to Alaskan companies doing business in the Japan, Korea, Taiwan areas. To cut off International Trade's assistance will Kill the Goose That Laid the Golden Egg !!

As important as it is to curb wasteful expenditures and develop realistic budgets, it is equally important to grow tax revenues. The seafood industry is the largest employer of Alaska citizens. *Alaska needs to expand our export trade and damaging International Trade Division would be counter-productive to everyone's best interest.*

These proposed cuts also eliminate the MADE IN ALASKA program that builds on the romance of seafood from the "Cold, clear unpolluted waters of Alaska". ASI planned to use this label extensively on its products. Eliminating this program hurts both Tourism in the service sector and Seafood in the manufacturing sector, both of which contribute substantial revenue to the State.

I urge you to help the private sector to help the public sector's revenue growth. By supporting International Trade you support ASI's efforts to export Alaska products.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard M. Benedict', written over a horizontal line.

Howard M. Benedict
Chairman

- c. Finance Committee members
- c. Ramona Barnes, John Cowdery, World Trade

Douglas M. Steenland
Executive Vice President
Chief Corporate Officer

Northwest Airlines, Inc.
Department A1180
5101 Northwest Drive
St. Paul MN 55111-3034

612 727-6500
612 727-4839 Fax

March 2, 2000

Rep. Gene Therriault
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 511
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Fax: 907-465-3884

Rep. Eldon Muider
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 507
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Fax: 907-465-3518

Dear Sirs:

We at Northwest Airlines wish to take this opportunity to urge a continuation of support for the important work of the Department of Community and Economic Development's Division of International Trade and Economic Development.

Northwest Airlines has had a long and successful presence in Alaska dating back to 1947, when Anchorage was on Northwest's original route to Asia. It was that year that Northwest became the first airline to link North America to Asia via the "Great Circle Route." That same route through Anchorage continues to play a vitally strategic role in our company today, especially from a cargo perspective.

A key anchor in our relationship is the Department of Community and Economic Development, and specifically, the Division of International Trade and Market Development. Together we have partnered over the years to identify and support new markets for Alaska products throughout Asia. Last year, we hosted a state-sponsored seafood trade mission to Japan for smaller Alaskan firms with limited or no contacts in Asia. Expanding markets in Asia for Alaska products means more business for air cargo operators like Northwest and more local jobs to support our Anchorage cargo operations.



But effective marketing in Asia is a big job. There's no substitute for consistency in keeping the pressure on. We're hopeful of continuing to partner with the Division of International Trade and Market Development to build on the momentum we've generated together these past several years. The division is a valuable partner for companies like Northwest Airlines and we hope its mission will not be jeopardized by severe budget cuts.

We see a bright future in the Pacific air freight market. Last year, Northwest expanded cargo service to Guam and Singapore as well as introduced new 747 all-cargo freighter service to Shanghai, China. Earlier this week, Northwest filed direct exhibits with the U.S. Department of Transportation in support of our application for five new frequencies between the U.S. and China. The new services would enable Northwest to provide a total of four weekly all-cargo flights to China, currently Alaska's fifth largest trading partner. The service would operate on a Chicago-Anchorage-Narita-Shanghai routing.

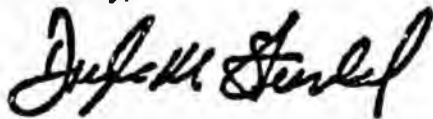
To meet the growth potential for air cargo operations in Asia, Northwest acquired two additional 747 freighters last year, bringing our total to 10 air-cargo aircraft and we are continuing to actively seek additional 747 freighters to add to our fleet. During our peak season, Northwest's 747 freighters touch down at Anchorage International Airport an average of 36 times each week. Unlike some cargo carriers, we don't depend upon AIA as just a fueling stop. Instead, we maximize the strategic location of Anchorage to conduct our domestic cross-loading operation, which we plan to grow significantly in the next few years.

On the passenger side, Northwest is working closely with the Division of International Trade and Market Development to identify ways to enhance passenger growth between Asia and Alaska via our Seattle gateway and, hopefully, on a seasonal nonstop basis in the next two to three years. That partnership is invaluable and we look forward to the State of Alaska's continued role with us.

We at Northwest certainly respect your efforts to carefully develop the state's budget for the next fiscal year. It is our hope that the Division of International Trade and Market Development will remain intact and fully supportive of the many ongoing efforts to expand the trade potential for Alaska-based companies throughout Asia.

If Northwest can provide additional information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Bob Benner at 612-726-2828.

Sincerely,



Douglas M. Steenland

James V. Drew
4725 Villanova Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3220

Tel: 907-479-2212
Fax: 907-479-0847

Rep. Eldon Mulder
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

March 2, 2000

Dear Representative Mulder:

I urge you to provide an appropriation for the Department of Community and Economic Development that will maintain the activities of the Division of International Trade and Development.

Exports of Alaska seed potatoes and tablestock potatoes to Taiwan by Alaska Agricultural Development & Marketing, Inc., an Alaska nonprofit corporation, increased from a few hundred pounds of seed potatoes in 1996 to 30 metric tons of seed potatoes, 40 metric tons of tablestock potatoes, 15 metric tons of carrots, and 15 giant cabbages in 1999. The Division of Trade and Development effectively assisted in this export growth.

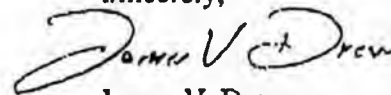
Specialists from the division showcased Alaska agricultural products at the 1999 American Food Festival held in three cities in Taiwan. Their work opened the door for a representative from Alaska Agricultural Development & Marketing, Inc., to present scientific data regarding the quality of Alaska food products to potential buyers attending the Food Festival.

Alaska agricultural products are of high quality, but they must compete in international markets with food products from states and countries that enjoy a fully developed infrastructure for agricultural marketing. Thus, Alaska farmers go head to head with the marketing expertise of major suppliers of food products outside of Alaska. Moreover, international buyers want suppliers that can meet their needs rather than a myriad of individual producers, and they want personal contacts with suppliers.

Alaska Agricultural Development & Marketing, Inc., seeks orders and organizes logistics to export agricultural products from individual Alaska farms. The Division of International Trade and Development provides visibility for Alaska agricultural products and personal contacts with customers in Taiwan and, potentially, in other countries. This compensates, in part, for the lack of a fully developed marketing system for Alaska farm products, and provides incentive for Alaska producers to increase production to expand Alaska's agriculture. In turn, it creates jobs and opportunities for Alaskans.

I urge you to provide an appropriation for the Department of Community and Economic Development that will permit the Division of International Trade and Development to continue to promote Alaska farm products overseas.

Sincerely,



James V. Drew

DEPT. COM
+ ECON DEV.

DIV. INTL
TRADE



Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
The Center of Opportunity

Executive Committee Resolution

Whereas the State Legislature is considering drastic budget cuts to the Department of Community and Economic Development, Division of International Trade and Market Development; and,

Whereas, the budget plan eliminates the trade program – the State's trade and research specialists; and,

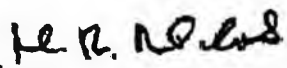
Whereas, the proposed cuts eliminate the State's only position responsible for recruiting new business and investment; and,

Whereas, the proposed cuts end 35 years of state trade representation in Japan and 15 years in Korea; and,

Whereas, the State has an important role to play in economic development,

Therefore be it Resolved that AEDC recommends that the House Finance Committee reconsider the proposed drastic cuts to the Department of Community and Economic Development, Division of International Trade and Market Development.

Passed and approved this 6th day of March, 2000.



Melvin R. Nichols, Chairman



Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
The Center of Opportunity

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 8, 2000

To: House Finance Committee, Alaska State Legislature
Rep. Eldon Mulder, Co-Chair
Rep. Gene Therrialut, Co-Chair
Rep. Con Bunde, Vice Chair
Rep. Alan Austerman
Rep. Gail Phillips
Rep. John Davies
Rep. Ben Grussendorf
Rep. Carl Moses
Rep. Richard Foster
Rep. Bill Williams

cc: Rep. Brian Porter, Speaker of the House
Rep. Ramona Barnes

From: Larry D. Crawford, AEDC President & CEO

The Anchorage Economic Development Corporation's Executive Committee has passed a resolution requesting that the House Finance Committee reconsider the proposed severe reductions to State funding for the Division of International Trade and Market Development. The budget being proposed to the House Finance Committee essentially eliminates the State's trade and research specialists. If passed, this will end 35 years of state trade representation in Japan and 15 years in Korea. These are Alaska's two largest export markets. The state's only position responsible for recruiting new business and investments will be eliminated should the proposed budget become reality.

Now is the time for economic development to be one of the State of Alaska's top priorities. Alaska needs to diversify its economy and become less dependent on oil revenues.

Please reconsider making such severe cuts to the budget of the Department of Community and Economic Development, Division of International Trade and Market Development. The State government has an important role to plan in economic development.

Sincerely,


Larry D. Crawford
President & CEO

Attached: AEDC Executive Committee Resolution



Alaska Herb Tea Company
6710 Welmer Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Fax Message

Tel/Fax 907-522-3499

Date: March 6, 2000

To: Representative Eldon Mulder, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee

From: Charles Walsh, President, Alaska Herb Tea Company, Inc.

Re: Funding Alaskan International Trade

We support your actions to control the State budget and make State government as efficient as possible – and we appreciate the difficult decisions you have to make.

We also believe that the DCED Division of Trade and Development is a net gainer for the State of Alaska, that it generates more money than it costs.

Therefore it is counterproductive to cut funding to the Division of Trade and Development – you will loose more than you will gain.

We have worked with the Division of Trade and Development for years and are very satisfied that they are seriously business minded. We also worked for several years with the state trade representation offices in Japan when we exhibited our product at FOODEX in Tokyo. They were extremely helpful.

Thank you for considering our request and our advice. Please fund the Division of Trade and Development's international trade program – it's a good investment.

Chesloknu Foods
Alaska Tribal Cache
Drawer L, Seldovia, AK 99663
907-234-7859, 800-270-7810
Fax: 907-234-7637, E-mail: rhilts@tribalnet.org

Date: March 6, 2000

Re: Support, Division of International Trade and Development.

To: Representative Mr. Eldon Mulder, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
FAX: 907-465-3518

As the General Manager of Chesloknu Foods, Seldovia, I urge you to fund the Division of International Trade and Development.

Chesloknu Foods is owned/operated by Seldovia Village Tribe. We produce jams, jellies and syrups using wild berries from native lands, using old tribal recipes.

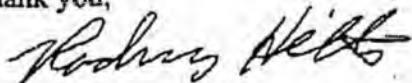
For three years we have participated in several Trade Shows in Japan and Korea through the State's products booths, sponsored by the International Trade Division. This exposure for our products would be impossible for us from both the aspects of cost and expertise in making contacts. The costs of sponsoring our own booth would be prohibitive.

We have received several good contacts from this exposure most notably, the receipt of a \$24,000 order in March of 1999. From our viewpoint, the efforts of the Division of International Trade and Development have been very successful and worthwhile.

Our contact with all personnel from the International Trade Division have been courteous, timely, and professional.

Please continue funding of this International Trade Division. Many small Alaskan businesses benefit from the Division's efforts, and would be unable to duplicate their participation in international trade without the very effective programs and expertise of the Trade Division's specialists.

Thank you,



Rodney Hilts, General Manager, Chesloknu Foods



VALDEZ CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

P.O. Box 1603 • Valdez, Alaska 99686 • Ph.: 907 836-2084 • Fax: 907-836-4845 • E-mail: valdezak@alaska.net

VALDEZ CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

RESOLUTION NO. 00 - 1

A RESOLUTION OF THE VALDEZ CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU, VALDEZ ALASKA, SUPPORTING THE MAINTENANCE OF A STRONG DIVISION OF TOURISM.

WHEREAS, the House Finance Committee is considering the elimination of the Alaska Division of Tourism by funding the department at the level of only \$200,000; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Tourism is responsible for overseeing the marketing contract between the State of Alaska and the new Alaska Tourism Industry Association as outlined in the legislation approving the New Millenium Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Tourism provides necessary community, and business assistance around the entire state; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Tourism is responsible for tourism development for the entire state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Tourism maintains and operates the Tok Visitor Center, the ambassador visitor center for all travelers entering the state via the Alaska Highway; and

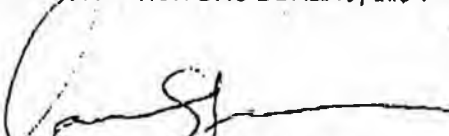
WHEREAS, the Division of Tourism sponsors necessary programs like the *North! to Alaska* guidebook for highway and ferry travelers, the *Tourism North* partnership with the Yukon, *Travel Agent Training*, and *Travel Fair* and much more; and

WHEREAS, no marketing and development plan has yet been established by the Alaska Tourism Industry Association.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau, that:

The Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau supports the maintenance of a strong Division of Tourism.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VALDEZ CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU, this 1st day of March, 2000.


Colleen Stephens, President

VALDEZ CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU


Laura Weaver, Secretary/Treasurer



DUTY FREE ALASKA

P.O. Box 220687 • Anchorage, Alaska 99522-0687 • U.S.A.

★ DAVID GREEN GROUP ★

Ph.: 907-248-8485 • Fax: 907-245-0190

ADM ✓

VIA FAX

3 March, 2000

Representative Eldon Muldur, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Re: Alaska State Division of International Trade & Market Development Funding

Dear Representative Muldur:

We understand that the House Finance Subcommittee has voted recently to drastically reduce funding for the State's Division of Trade & Development.

It's our understanding that the Subcommittee's plan eliminates the current trade program along with the State's trade specialists and research arm. It also ends a long and established history of Alaska trade representation in important Asian markets like Japan and Korea, the State's two largest export markets.

This will leave the State without any effective responsible representation for recruiting new business development and investment.

It is our belief this will work to the longer term harm of the State's vital trade and business interests.

We urge you to oppose this budget plan and restore full funding for this important State agency.

We thank you for your understanding and support.

Richard E. Benedetti
Partner

cc: Jerry & Perry Green

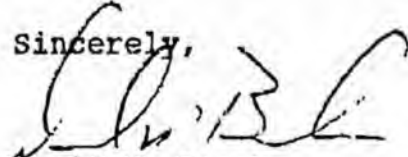
Representative Eldon Mulder, Co-Chair
Representative Gene Therriault, Co-Chair
March 3, 2000
Page 2

This 'team' approach has provided a steady stream of business contacts between Asian buyers and Alaskan businesses and has resulted in substantial sales of Alaskan products. Without the support of the Division of Trade and Development, that activity would basically disappear.

The message would be 'loud and clear' to Asian buyers. Alaska is taking itself 'out of play'. Competition is intense. We MUST NOT let this happen. We CANNOT let this happen. Alaskan businesses NEED this support to survive. We're on a roll. PLEASE support these efforts by restoring those funds to 'make it happen'.

I can't fully appreciate the difficulties you face in trying to trim the budget without causing some grief. However, developing non oil related business is Alaska's future. We CAN'T sell our future. There MUST be a better alternative.

Sincerely,



David W. Beach
President

cc: Rep. Con Bunde
Rep. Alan Auterman
Rep. Gail Phillips
Rep. John Davies
Rep. Ben Grussendorf
Rep. Carl Moses
Rep. Richard Foster
Rep. Bill Williams
Rep. Gary Davis
Rep. Brian Porter
Rep. Ramona Barnes



A Seafood Logistics Company, and more!

March 3, 2000

Representative Eldon Mulder, Co-chair
Representative Gene Therriault, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Gentlemen,

I have been made aware a proposal has been set forth to reduce the budget for the Division of Trade and Development from 2.1 million dollars to approximately \$625,000 effectively wiping out the efforts of the State of Alaska to advance business opportunities and develop trade relationships with international companies.

This would be disastrous!

I respectfully ask the questions: Are you people aware of the work currently being done by the staff of the Division of Trade and Development? Do you have a feel for the benefits and opportunities that have been created for Alaskan businesses as a result of this work? It would appear the business community has been remiss in NOT keeping you abreast of these developments. Let me say, the opportunities have been many. Very tangible, very productive, and very timely. I would think this would be of particular interest to State Legislators. At a time when oil revenue is expected to continue to fall, developing non oil related commerce SHOULD be a priority. The sale of Alaskan seafood to Asian countries is certainly one of the ways to achieve that aim.

I have personally been involved in the selection process to place the best possible person in Tokyo to represent the interests of Alaskan businesses in Japan. This was accomplished and accomplished, I might add, at a substantially lower cost than was previously paid. We are CERTAINLY getting our money's worth.

Although we are greatly 'outgunned' by Europe, South America, and individual countries such as Canada and New Zealand, through close coordination by the Division of Trade and Development with our Japanese and Korean representatives, we are doing remarkably well.



INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL CONSULTANTS, INC.

2000 E. Dowling Road #10 • Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1956
(907) 561-7722 • FAX: (907) 561-3600

A Professional Corporation

March 03, 2000

To: House Finance Committee
Rep. Eldon Mulder, Co-Chair
907-465-3518

Dear Committee Member,

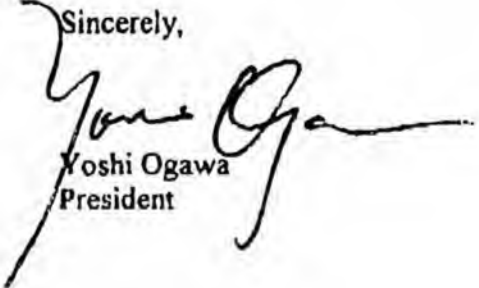
International trade is important to Alaska businesses and the Pacific Rim markets. Japan is Alaska's most important trading partner and yet the House Finance subcommittee is voting to eliminate Alaska representation there. This will end three decades of official state promotions and representation in Alaska's largest export market.

By closing Alaska's trade programs, Asian companies might see this as a slight in the way business is done here. Instead of cutting finances, we should be finding ways to support the overseas trade offices to continue growth in our state. Alaska faces competition from other states and countries in the important Asian marketplace. Why do you want to make it more difficult to compete.

Please restore funding to the Division of Trade & Development for the coming years so Alaska businesses can continue to benefit from the Division's work in the international markets.

Thank you for the consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,


Yoshi Ogawa
President

BROOKS ALASKAN SEAFOOD
38225 GREER ROAD
HOMER , ALASKA 99603
PHONE 907-235-5623 FAX 907-235-5623
CELLULAR 907-399-1156 E-MAIL brooks@alaska.net

House Finance Committee
ATTN: Rep Eldon Maulder , Co Chair
Date: 3/3/ 2000

Dear Representative Maulder:

On February 28th the House Finance Subcommittee voted to drastically cut funding for the States International Trade Program. Over the last twelve years the Department of Community and Economic Development has proven a useful resource in building my business from a one desk office to a multi-state, multi-country enterprise. I hope that you will reconsider this abrupt and ill conceived decision. A vote against trade will represent a vote against the future of Alaska. Thank you for your consideration.



Michael G. Brooks

cc State of Alaska Dept. of Community and Economic Development



CAPITOL TOKYU HOTEL

Fax: (907) 465-3518

March 2, 2000

the Honorable Eldon Mulder
Co-chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
U.S.A.

Dear Representative Mulder,

We get to know the Alaska Legislature is judging the budget of the state's international trade program, including its trade representation in Japan.

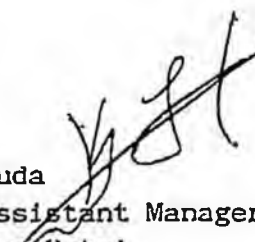
Capitol Tokyu Hotel in Tokyo, a prestigious hotel where many world-renowned guests have stayed, had a special Alaska Seafood Fair at 5 restaurants in the hotel this January and February. The Fair was successful in over \$200,000 Alaska seafood sales for two months.

We are now planning to have Alaska Seafood Fair in our hotel in the coming Fall again.

This successful Alaska Seafood Fair in our hotel would not have existed if the state representative in Japan could not suggest it to us.

Japan Office of the State of Alaska is very important in helping our business and developing new ideas in many fields.

Sincerely,


Kinichi Fukuda
Executive Assistant Manager
Capitol Tokyu Hotel

SEIBU TRAVEL, INC.**HEAD OFFICE**

16-1, Nishi-Shimbashi 2-chome Minato-ku, Tokyo 106, Japan. Phone(03)3431-3745, Facsimile(03)3434-3807

BRANCH OFFICES

Arrow Center Phone(03)3431-8185
 Marunouchi Phone(03)3314-8186/Shimbashi Phone(03)3459-8186
 Tokyo Prince Hotel Phone(03)5472-8186/Akasaka Prince Hotel Phone(03)3239-8186
 New Takanawa Prince Hotel Phone(03)3444-8186/Shinagawa Prince Hotel Phone(03)3442-8186
 Shinjuku Phone(03)3209-8186/Takadanobaba Phone(03)3205-8186
 Ikebukuro Phone(03)3981-8186/Sunshine City Prince Hotel Phone(03)3946-8186
 Shin Tokorozawa Phone(0429)26-8186/Makuhari Prince Hotel Phone(043)296-8186
 Yokohama Prince Hotel Phone(045)754-8186/Shin Yokohama Prince Hotel Phone(045)474-8186
 Sapporo Phone(011)222-8186/Nagoya Phone(052)561-8186
 Otsu Prince Hotel Phone(0775)541-8186/Kyoto Phone(075)341-8186
 Osaka Phone(06)363-8186/Fukuoka Phone(092)291-8186

Fax: (907)465-3518

March 2, 2000

The Honorable Eldon Mulder
 Co-chair, House Finance Committee
 Alaska State Legislature
 State Capitol
 Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Mulder,

It has come to my attention that as the Alaska Legislature reviews the State budget for its international trade program, the role of its Tokyo Office will also come under consideration. As a beneficiary of the services of the Japan Office of the State of Alaska, I would like to submit a few words for your kind consideration.

Even though our company has been taking Japanese tourists to Alaska for 30 years now, Office continues to be an invaluable source of information and assistance to us. Their trade and tourism projects assist our industry in marketing and promoting Alaska as a fascinating and beautiful part of the world to visit. In the course of doing business, they were able to come up with just the contact or the facts we needed so that we could move ahead and create business opportunities that are mutually beneficial.

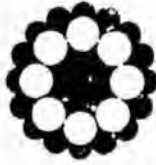
To date our company has taken over 2,500 groups, totally 50,000 Japanese tourists to Alaska, and look forward to increasing this figure by 80,000 because our company is a sister company of Westin Alyeska Prince Hotel invested by our boss company, Kokudo Inc. Research by consumer groups estimate that the average Japanese tourist spends \$1,400 on accommodations and gifts on a 3 - 5 day tour, a significant amount in any family's annual budget.

Being able to obtain swift replies to our inquiries and to consult in Japanese with your Japan Office has been invaluable in bringing together the changing needs of our customers and of the merchants in Alaska. It is my hope that the State of Alaska will take this opportunity to recognize the firm foundation upon which Alaska's presence in Japan has been built and to develop it even further as a stimulus for tourism and trade in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Seibu Travel, Inc.


 KEIJI SAKAKIBARA
 General Manager of Arrow Center



PRINCE HOTELS, INC.

Kokudo Bldg., 35-1, Jingumae 6-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8381 Japan
Phone:03-3498-1111 Facsimile:3498-1113

March 3, 2000

The Honorable Eldon Mulder
Co-chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Mulder,

As the Alaska Legislature proceeds with its deliberations on its budget for the international trade program. I wish to offer a few ideas on the efficacy of maintaining your State Office in Japan

Our company purchased and invested Alyeska Ski Resort in 1980, and built a new deluxe hotel, Westin Alyeska Prince Hotel in 1994 for promoting Alaska tourism. The State Office continues to be an invaluable source of information and assistance to promote Japanese travel market and airline traffic.

Their trade and tourism projects in Japan assist our industry in marketing and promoting

Alaska as a wonderful and beautiful part of the world to visit.

We are confident that by maintaining your current Office in Japan you will be able to continue to expand your businesses and as yet unexplored areas of economic growth.

Sincerely,

Shunichi Yamazoe
Director of Overseas Department
Prince Hotels, Inc.

Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.

Seoul Representative Office

Room 105 Pegam Bldg, 1303-34 Socho-dong, Socho-gu, Seoul, Korea

Tel : 822-556-2898 Fax : 822-556-4456

E-Mail : injaekim@shindokorea.com

The Honorable Eldon Mulder
Co-Chairman, House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Tel : 907-465-2647
Fax : 907-465-3518

March 3, 2000
Via Fax

Dear Mr. Mulder,

We would like to express our appreciation for the supports from Alaska State Division of International Trade and Market Development, and its Seoul Office in Korea enabling Usibelli to export almost 10.0 million tons for last 15 years. Every year, whenever we negotiate with Korea for price and terms, State and Seoul Office have helped us very much and coordinated with U.S. Embassy and Korea Electric Power Corporation.

Our next negotiation for year 2000/2001 with Hyundai Merchant Marine and Korea Electric Power Corporation is being scheduled in the coming August. We are always happy to work with State and Seoul Office and appreciate very much your continuous support for economic relationship between Alaska and Korea.

Sincerely yours,



Injae Kim
Representative

대한항공 KOREAN AIR

서울특별시 중구 회현동 41-3, 中央郵便局 864 電話總機 (02)751-7114, (02)656-7114, <http://www.koreanair.co.kr>
C.P.O. Box 864, Seoul, Korea Tel. (02)751-7114, <http://www.koreanair.com>

March 3, 2000

The Honorable Eldon Mulder
Co-Chairman, House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Tel: (907) 465-2647
Tel: 888-465-2647
fax: (907) 465-3518

Dear Honorable Eldon Mulder:

We sincerely appreciate the support from Alaska State Division of International Trade and Market Development and its trade representative in Korea in promoting cargo services between Seoul and Anchorage.

As part of promotional efforts to air cargo services to Alaska, your trade offices in Anchorage and Seoul co-sponsored the Alaska Seafood Seminar together with us last April. We also have had the opportunities to work with your trade offices and have found them to be effective in promoting our air cargo services between Seoul and Anchorage.

We would like to commend both the Division of International Trade and Market Development and its Korea Office for their assistance in creating these opportunities.

Again, I thank the staff of the Division of International Trade and Market development for a "job well done" and look forward to working with all of them in the future.

Very Sincerely Yours



Soo-Myung Choi
Managing Vice president
Cargo Sales & Marketing

Daerim Corporation

692-13 Nambumin-Dong, Seo-Ku,

Busan, Korea

Tel : 82-51-250-2121 Fax : 82-51-242-0110

Mar 03, 2000

The Honorable Eldon Mulder
Co-Chairman, House Finance Committee
Legislative Session Contact,
State Capital, Room 507,
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182
Tel : (907)-465-2647 Fax : (907)-465-3518

Dear Mr. Mulder

We are, first of all, greatly pleased to have an opportunity to contact with you. As you might know the captioned name of company, we are one of the leading company for Seafood Processing and Trading business in Korea. Our main supplying source for the Seafood Processing and Trading business are being come from mainly Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska regions.

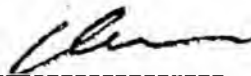
We used to get greatly valuable and vivid informations related the seafood business through Alaska State Division of International Trade and Market Development and its branch Office in Seoul, Korea.

These two organizations could help us a lot for predicting market trends and also to make a decision to buy or not.

We, sometimes, ask them to get any informations which is related overall Seafoods Industry in USA and they used to provide us many valuable informations from time to time.

We always appreciate cooperations from these two organizations and sincerely hope they will continue to support us in order for us to keep our good business.

Cordially,



Poseidon Cho
General Manager/Seafood Trading Dept.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

Office of
Agricultural
Trade Officer

March 3, 2000

The Honorable Eldon Mulder
Co-Chairman, House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 507
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Sir:

I write this letter to commend the activities of the Alaska State Division of International Trade, and the Alaska State Office in Seoul, Korea. I hold both of these organizations in very high regard. We are currently cooperating with these two offices on several seafood export promotion activities. They are providing assistance we simply could not find elsewhere. I am confident that these activities will increase export sales of Alaskan industries to Korea.

Sincerely,

Daryl A. Brehm
Agricultural Trade Office
Seoul, Korea



KYOKUYO CO., LTD.

TELEPHONE: 81-3-5545-0709
FAX: 81-3-5545-0736



KOKUSAI SANNO BUILDING,
3-3 5 AKASAKA, MINATOKU,
TOKYO. 107. JAPAN

March 2, 2000

The Honorable Eldon Mulder
Co-chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Mulder,

We get to know the Alaska Legislature is reviewing the state's international trade budget program, including its trade representation in Japan.

Our company, Kyokuyo Co., Ltd., has imported various Alaska seafoods over 40 million dollars annually as we have been doing business with Alaska nearly 40 years.

It is a pleasure for us as a major seafood company in Japan to say that the state representative in Japan has helped Japanese seafood industry in connection with Alaska.

From what we know of a Japanese presence by the State of Alaska we have no doubt that, they will not only carry on their Alaska business promotion but also promote the existing friendship between Japan and Alaska.

It will be most appreciated if you take consideration of the importance of your trade representation in Japan when you review this matter.

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yuzo Nimura'.

Yuzo Nimura

President



THE WESTIN CHOSUN

In preparation for the June Alaska Festival, I plan to visit Alaska along with our chefs and food & beverage manager around the end of this month. While we are in Alaska, we are going to select not only top quality Alaska seafood but also other food items suitable to Alaska Festival.

Under these circumstances, the support from your State Division of International Trade and Market Development (DITMD) and its trade office in Korea is an absolute necessity for a success of the scheduled Alaska Festival this June. I plan to discuss the details on the Festival with DITMD people this month.

My very best wishes for your health, wealth and happiness.

Young Hee Lee, Director
Purchasing Department

Stepped in Tradition, with Modern Comfort

87 Sokong-dong, Chung-gu, Seoul 100-070, Korea Tel: (82-2) 771-0500 Fax: (82-2) 752-1413 / 753-6470 E-mail: marketing@westinchosun.com

Reservations: Toll-free 020-417-0901

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**

6-3, MARUNOUCHI 2-CHOME,
CHYODA-KU,
TOKYO 100-8382, JAPAN
TELEPHONE (81) 310-2121
TELEX NICTON A 33223

March 1, 2000

The Honorable Eldon Mulder
Co-chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear, Representative Mulder,

I understand the Alaska Legislature is considering the budget of the state's international trade program, including its trade representation in Japan.

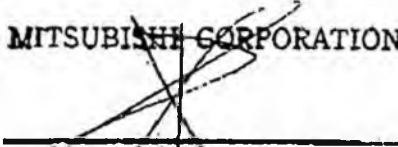
My company, Mitsubishi Corporation, has been doing business with Alaska companies for 30 years.

Having the state representative in Japan has greatly helped my company to conduct business with Alaska companies. We rely on Alaska's state trade representative for information about Alaska, assistance in contacting Alaska companies.

A Japanese presence by the State of Alaska is very important in helping my company to do business with Alaska companies.

Sincerely ,

MITSUBISHI CORPORATION



Manager, Alaska Project Team
LNG Business Department A

Marubeni

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO
SEC. NO.
LETTER NO.

March 2, 2000

The Honorable Eldon Mulder
Co-chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Mulder,


I understand the Alaska Legislature is considering the budget of the state's international trade program, including its trade representation in Japan.

My company, Marubeni Corporation, has been involved, well in concert and cooperation with Alaska companies, in the activities in pursuit of commercializing North Slope natural gas for more than a decade. I believe my company may also have a good business relation with Alaska companies in the other fields, such as fishery.

Having the state representative in Japan has greatly helped my company to conduct business with Alaska companies. Especially, it is of very help to us that Alaska's state trade representative provides us with the updated information in connection with the business climate in Alaska in a timely fashion.

A Japanese presence by the State of Alaska is very important in helping my company to do business with Alaska companies.

Sincerely,



Shigeki Maeda
Assistant General Manager
LNG Project Department

MARUBENI CORPORATION
C. P. O. BOX 585, TOKYO 100-8892 JAPAN
TELEPHONE: TOKYO 3282-2111
CABLE: MARUBENI TOKYO
TELEX: J22326, J22327, J22328

CORRECTIONS



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on HB 313 Mental Health dated March 4, 2000
 bill/subject

As an adult with a physical disability due to a spinal
 cord injury, I wish to thank you for "fully
 funding the Adult Public Assistance for the
 needy blind, elderly and disabled individuals"

Thank you for considering the need of these people.

Signed: Patricia Ann Grubbs
 Testifier

SELF - MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
 Representing (Optional)

3479 Harding St. 1, Homer, Alaska, 99613
 Address

235-7423
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on 312 Budget FY2001, dated 3-4-00
 bill/subject

The Mat-Su youth facility is complete! If MSYF is not opened in FY 2001 then every district in Alaska will suffer. 17 mat-su youth are now causing the McLaughlin statewide service unit to be at 135% over capacity. Detaining Mat-Su youth fifty miles distant in Anchorage is more costly and a great strain to already dysfunctional families.

When an incident due to McLaughlin's overcrowding results in litigation, the only ones to benefit will be the litigator's attorneys.

Please add the \$1.3M operating budget to provide fifteen youth-detention beds in Mat-Su

Signed: Paul Stein John C. Stein
 Testifier
Kids Are People, Inc / Saxton Youth Shelter
 Representing (Optional)
481 Briar Dr. Wasilla
 Address
376-0580
 Phone No.

HB

312/313

(File 5)

HFIN

FILE

EDUCATION

+

EARLY

DEVELOP.

Central Council
Tlingit and Haida



Indian Tribes of Alaska

CENTRAL COUNCIL
 tlingit and haida indian TRIBES of alaska
 ANDREW P. HOPE BUILDING
 320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300
 Juneau, Alaska 99801-9983

March 7, 2000

The House Finance Committee
Representative Mulder, Co-Chair
Representative Theriault, Co-Chair
Representative Bunde, Vice-Chair
Members:

Representative Davis
Representative Austerman
Representative Foster
Representative Grussendorf
Representative Phillips
Representative Williams
Representative Davies
Representative Moses:

The Central Council, Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) Head Start Parent Policy Council strongly urges your support of Governor Tony Knowles' proposed budget increase of \$2 million for the Head Start program. This increase would enable the Head Start program to serve an additional 400 children in Alaska who are in urgent need of this service.

Right now, only 23% of eligible families are being served in Alaska. The additional money would significantly increase our ability to serve the eligible children in need of this important program. It would enrich their lives and help them to realize their full potential in a regular classroom setting and in their learning abilities in the future.

The Tlingit & Haida Head Start Parent Policy Council appreciates your support for the additional money for the Head Start budget. Thank you for your time and attention to this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

Donna Brockschmidt, Chair
 Parent Policy Council
 Tlingit & Haida Head Start Program

161 Palace Circle
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-451-8342
March 4, 2000

House Finance Committee
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Education Funding

Dear Finance Committee Members:

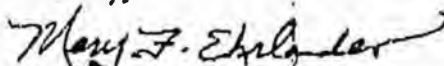
It is dismayng that in a state as rich in oil wealth as Alaska is that I should have to write and implore you to generously fund public education. I recognize that you are faced with fiscal constraints, particularly given the fact that the electorate essentially vetoed the legislature's use of part of the permanent fund for general purposes. However, it is your responsibility to establish priorities, and clearly education and public safety must be the top priorities of state government.

Because of anticipated cuts in funding for the Fairbanks North Star School District, the board and administration are contemplating cutting, among others, the instrumental music programs in elementary schools, as well as raising the PTR. At a time when the state is requiring that students take qualifying exams to receive high school diplomas (which I heartily support), it is ironic that school districts are facing funding cuts that will clearly compromise the school systems' ability to ensure the success of the maximum number of students.

While you do not determine how the school districts allocate their funds, you present them with unacceptable choices through the proposed cuts. As the mother of three sons who benefitted immeasurably from the instrumental music programs in grade school, I strongly oppose cutting these programs. My sons all excelled in music and in all academic areas (not coincidentally) through high school and went on to excel in college. In addition to the inherent benefits of music education, music played a significant role in building other academic skills, as well as instilling self discipline and character and contributing to their sense of self esteem. Eliminating the instrumental music programs from elementary schools would deny this enriching experience to many children, to the detriment of not only themselves, but the school community and society as a whole. Fairbanks should not be forced into this choice. Nor should we be faced with raising the PTR, which would clearly compromise children's achievement.

I urge you to rethink priorities, place the education and future of Alaska's children at the top of your list.

Sincerely,


Mary F. Ehrlander



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on Educational Funding, dated March 4, 2000
 bill/subject

I am a sixth grade teacher in Anchorage. I am responsible for teaching seven subjects. I have text books for only two or three. Many materials I purchase myself. Most of the curriculum I teach is curriculum I write, using resources I purchase. The resources we do have are outdated (some over 30 years)! Many students prefer to look at home because they have "better" resources. Currently I am the main resource for preparing my students for standardized exams. In order to succeed on these mandated exams (and in life!), students need current resources in the form of tangible materials that only sufficient funding can provide. Please consider the "damaging long term effects of further reductions in an absolutely essential Alaskan resource -

Signed:

funding Tara Lindh

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

PB BOX 241924 Anchorage AK 99524

Address

(907) 229-5746

Phone No.

OUR
 CHILDREN!
 Thank you!



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on HB 312, dated 3/4/2000
 bill/subject

I urge you to restore \$19 million to the Foundation Program for K-12 Education. We have less course offerings, larger class size, and less support staff in our schools than ever, even though our student enrollment has increased. Next year we are projecting a flat enrollment, however, our other expenses continue to increase.

Mandated benchmark exams, high school exams, Kindergarten Developmental Profile, and next year mandated Alternate Assessment all cost money \$16 per pupil is inadequate to do all that is required under the Quality Schools Initiative. Flat Funding Pupil Transportation will cause Mat-Su School district to take \$320,000

Signed: _____
 Testifier
 from our operating budget to pay for testing. This is drastic!
 Representing (Optional)

Address
 Please add the \$19 million back to Foundation

Phone No.
 Funding + Fully Fund Pupil Transportation
 9/85 Legislative Information Office
 Thank you
 Lucy Hope / Box 870887
 376-4794 / Wasilla, AK
 99687

To House Finance Committee members,

I am a Head Start teacher for the Kenaitze Head Start program, and I am concerned that there are no increases for Head Start programs in the budget, nor increases in child care licensing, child care businesses or increases for operating funds for existing Head Start programs.

I urge you to think of investing in Alaska's children, especially young children. Head Start is a critical program, providing opportunities for low income children to attend preschool and be better prepared for school, and provide support and education for the families in Head Start programs.

Head Start is a preventative program. Money spent on preventative programs is money well spent for the greater good of our Alaskan communities.

I would urge you to rethink cutting money from the proposed increases for these child-directed programs, and consider taking money from proposed increases for prisons.

Children should come first. They are our future. At present, less than half the children who qualify for Head Start programs have the opportunity to attend these programs. Thank you for considering this testimony, and the importance of our Head Start and child care programs.

Sincerely,

Urinet Shapley
Kenaitze Head Start

292 Katmai Ave
Soldotna, AK 99669

Page 2 of 2
Martishev

House Finance Committee,

My name is Juley Martishev. I am an educator, a student, and a mother. So I see from every angle how the budget cuts are affecting us. We are losing teachers, support staff, and closing schools.

As an educator, I see it in the classrooms everyday. We are expected to do more and more all the time but when we lose teachers, there will be more kids in classrooms. And teachers are supposed to and do handle it.

As a student, I don't want our universities to lose money because I want to keep going to school here, in Alaska, not outside in the Lower 48.

And of course, as a mom, I want my kids to get as much out of school as possible. I don't want them to be in a classroom where the teacher is so overwhelmed, he/she doesn't have time for some one on one w/my ^{or any} child, when he/she needs it.

It is always said that children are our future. But if schools keep getting cut, it's our children that will be hurt. I implore you not to cut our schools and if possible to actually put more money into schools, universities, child care services.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCES
 committee name
 committee on HR 312, dated 3-4-2000
 bill # / subject

I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE PROPOSED REDUCTION IN THE FOUNDATION FORMULA.

I AM THE HEADS CUSTODIAN AT SOCDOTNA HIGH SCHOOL. THE JOB OF CUSTODIANS IS NOT & CANNOT BE TIED TO ENROLLMENT. IT IS CALCULATED BY SQUARE FOOTAGE OF THE BUILDING. AT MY BUILDING OUR STAFFING HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 11 CUSTODIANS TO 7 THROUGH PAST BUDGET CUTS. ALL OF THE SITES WITHIN OUR DISTRICT, 37 IN ALL, HAVE SUSTAINED CUTS IN BOTH CUSTODIAL STAFFING & CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES.

DECLINING ENROLLMENT DOES NOT RELIEVE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CLEAN RESTROOMS WITHIN 24 HOURS OF USE (DEC. REG.) OR TO KEEP CARPETS CLEAN AS THEY ARE THE NUMBER 1 FACTOR AFFECTING INDOOR AIR QUALITY. RECENTLY 2 SCHOOLS IN TUTTLE WASHINGTON WERE CLOSED DUE TO UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS FROM LACK OF CUSTODIANS. THE COST TO BRING THESE SCHOOLS BACK ON LINE WILL BE ENORMOUS, INVOLVING REMOVAL OF DRYWALL, INSULATION, & SANITIZING THE WALL STUDS.

CUSTODIANS ARE USUALLY THE FIRST CUTS WITH DWINDLING BUDGETS. IT IS VITAL TO FULLY FUND EDUCATION.

Signed: [Signature] - JASON GARRETT, VICE PRES. KPESA
 Testifier

KENAI PENINSULA EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT ASSOCI.
 Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1448 SOCDOTNA, AK. 99169
 Address

(907) 262-5254
 Phone number

My name is Kelly O'Connor Demko. I'm a teacher in the Petersburg School District and I'm concerned about your proposed cut to public education of 19 million dollars. Our school has experienced continual cuts to our budget for several years in a row. Long ago our music program was cut as well as a counselor position. Last year we suffered a huge loss of aid time in our classrooms and a reduction of special education services due to the new funding formula. The needy students do not lessen each year to coincide with these cuts, in fact it is just the opposite. We are experiencing an influx or increasingly needy children due to several factors in our community as well as environmental factors that influence children's growth. Continually under threat are our vital swimming and library programs. We're doing our best to keep up with mandates from the legislature for testing with no added income.

Every new year that goes by we can only cry for the continual loss of vital programs to our system. We should be talking about a foreign language program through out the school and an increase in technology training to help our children live and be successful in an increasingly competitive international market. We are unable to even talk about restoring the recent loss of programs because we are so involved in figuring out how we are going to keep our existing programs, let alone being able to talk about creating excellent educational programs for our children.

We all know that the price of oil is high right now and we are very aware of the money sitting in the permanent fund and we know that something creatively *can* be done with those monies to fund education fairly and rationally besides cutting the budget every year. This doesn't seem too creative from our perspective.

I also would like to comment on this process of public input. I've been sitting here for three hours waiting to speak to you. I know there are at least 200 people who feel the same as myself, but it is physically impossible for that many people to fit in this room and for a period of 4 hours! On the radio you said if you hear testimony against what you have proposed you will know people are unhappy with the budget proposal, now your saying that you cannot accommodate the very small number of people who are able to give input. This process is obviously inadequate!

I just have one question in closing that I would like you to answer for the public as you move forward in this process. What has happened between last year and this year to justify the diminished funds to education and public radio as well?

Thank you,
Kelly O'Connor Demko
P.O. Box 271
Petersburg, AK 99833
907-772-4389
3/4/2000

161 Palace Circle
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-451-8342
March 4, 2000

House Finance Committee
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Education Funding

Dear Finance Committee Members:

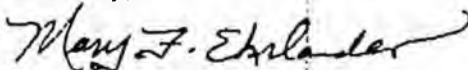
It is dismaying that in a state as rich in oil wealth as Alaska is that I should have to write and implore you to generously fund public education. I recognize that you are faced with fiscal constraints, particularly given the fact that the electorate essentially vetoed the legislature's use of part of the permanent fund for general purposes. However, it is your responsibility to establish priorities, and clearly education and public safety must be the top priorities of state government.

Because of anticipated cuts in funding for the Fairbanks North Star School District, the board and administration are contemplating cutting, among others, the instrumental music programs in elementary schools, as well as raising the PTR. At a time when the state is requiring that students take qualifying exams to receive high school diplomas (which I heartily support), it is ironic that school districts are facing funding cuts that will clearly compromise the school systems' ability to ensure the success of the maximum number of students.

While you do not determine how the school districts allocate their funds, you present them with unacceptable choices through the proposed cuts. As the mother of three sons who benefitted immeasurably from the instrumental music programs in grade school, I strongly oppose cutting these programs. My sons all excelled in music and in all academic areas (not coincidentally) through high school and went on to excel in college. In addition to the inherent benefits of music education, music played a significant role in building other academic skills, as well as instilling self discipline and character and contributing to their sense of self esteem. Eliminating the instrumental music programs from elementary schools would deny this enriching experience to many children, to the detriment of not only themselves, but the school community and society as a whole. Fairbanks should not be forced into this choice. Nor should we be faced with raising the PTR, which would clearly compromise children's achievement.

I urge you to rethink priorities, place the education and future of Alaska's children at the top of your list.

Sincerely,



Mary F. Ehrlander

March 12, 2000

Please distribute to all Finance Committee members - Thank you.

Re: **HJR 6 - To Amend the Constitution for Education**

Dear Representative Therriault,

I would like to request the House Finance Committee to hold hearings on HJR 6 to amend the constitution to make available a voucher system for education available to parents for the following reasons:

1. My son has birth defect/brain injury syndromes and the new learned devised strategies on these syndromes to create success for these children were not being applied to my six-year old son in the school district. My son's needs went by unaddressed for 1.5 years of kindergarten (he had to repeat). To put a disabled child into a classroom without the supports that work for the specific impairment is to abuse the child - *the idea is to bridge the educational gap that exists so that the impaired child can get the curriculum goals other children can ordinarily get on their own, but the impaired child cannot* - this takes specialized supports, techniques *specific* to each disability, which there are many children with various disabilities (a very individual thing, some brain, some developmental, etc.). If this is not happening, the child's educational and developmental goals fall grossly behind, as my son's consistently did. Quality education is the issue here - it has become too broad a business, children's needs not being met.

2. These children with the birth defect/brain injury syndromes are volatile and preventable secondary characteristics begin to occur if these children are not appropriately addressed according the needs of the disability - this occurred for my six-year old son in his first kindergarten year in Juneau. When it was occurring throughout his second year again, I had to remove him from the school setting.

3. When I tried to get into a home school correspondence situation for my son to use the known devised strategies for the disability myself, I became #723 on the waitlist for one; told there is a chance of not getting to participate in any of the correspondence programs I applied to. *These programs are not treated as the school district where if a new student is in need the funding becomes available to them.* They shut us all out after the funding allowable cutoff date occurs, and let us know there is no guarantee we will ever get to participate. There is no room in charter schools **(funding issues)**

4. I cannot afford to home school my child alone and need a voucher system so that I can receive the money the district ordinarily would receive. I am the low income, single parent household. I face many difficult crossroads such as, do I educate my child or keep letting his needs go by unaddressed because of the demands of American life to where he will not be able to have a quality life when the age and time arrives? This pulls at my heart and the hearts of many parents and I have had to make *desperate and difficult choices*. I need the resources to help me educate my impaired child in the home.

Please allow this bill to be given great merit and be scheduled for a hearing and moved on seriously for consideration on the floors. Your understanding is appreciated in the lives of our impaired children, so that they can be worked with to see what their latent potentials might be capable of doing, instead of an *ignorant, unpassionate, understaffed with disability specialists and unimpassioned ideas to help these impaired children* type of education system. This is very **serious** peril for these children. If there is the better thing to help parents - the child receives the better thing in life than the lesser that must be looked towards with only desire, unable for us to touch. Then, we have to deal with the state waitlist to even get resources to get the child to a special developmentally assistive clinic *known to help these children* while they are still young, to change the course of their life. The waitlists in these alternatives show there is very true needs occurring here. Your consideration is greatly appreciated in these serious matters.

Thank you.

Joan Dangeli
Joan Dangeli

Box 34711
Juneau, AK 99803-4711
586-2765



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance committee name
 committee on Higher Education , dated 3/4/00
 bill/subject

I support fully funding the Higher Education Budget as requested by the Chancellor. To do otherwise will cause further brain drain from our faculties and increase the number of students leaving the state, seeking the quality of higher education that should be available within our state!

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	3/4/00	# of pages	10
To	House Finance	From	Homer LIO		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #	235-87878		
Fax #	465-6813	Fax #			

Signed: Darlene Byrne
 Testifier
self
 Representing (Optional)
59855 Sanford Dr. Homer
 Address
907 235-6264
 Phone No.

FROM: MARTA MUELLER
PO BOX 82724
FAIRBANKS AK 99708
(907) 479-6780

RE: HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
TELECONFERENCE
DATE: 03 04 00

Thank you for your service to the state of Alaska. I am an alumna of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. As an alumna I speak for many Alaskans when I say our state should be proud of our alma mates. Many of our community leaders and even our legislators are alumni, have worked for the university, received or sold ~~from~~ services from or for the university, or hired university alumni and students. With the myriad ways the university has worked in Alaskan lives it has been disappointing to see declines in enrollment, faculty, and services but yet student tuition and fees increase. Last year's increase to the UofA budget was met with enthusiasm and renewed spirit by our administrators, students, and Board of Regents. I hope the legislature carries this spirit forward by investing in the UofA now. I wholeheartedly support the \$16.9 million dollar increase to the UofA general fund. I encourage the House finance committee to meet the challenges of the new millennium by supporting this increase. Our state deserves an educated workforce, dedicated citizens, and educational opportunities the UofA can offer.

(And I'm sorry about my crack on UAA being underrepresented in the legislature and maybe they should start producing more dedicated citizens).

Marta Mueller

Committee Meetings



(S) FINANCE			STANDING COMMITTEE	*
Mar 3	Friday	9:00 AM	SENATE FINANCE 532	
=+SB 95		SCHOOL GRADE LEVELS	TELECONFERENCED	
=+SB 105		PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING	TELECONFERENCED	
+SB 198		INCREASE BASE ALLOCATION FOR EDUCATION	TELECONFERENCED	
+SB 244		QUALITY SCHOOL GRANT FUND INCREASE	TELECONFERENCED	
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
(H) JUDICIARY			STANDING COMMITTEE	*
Mar 3	Friday	1:00 PM	CAPITOL 120	
+HB 310		ALASKA INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION	TELECONFERENCED	
+HB 284		UNINSURED MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE	TELECONFERENCED	
+HB 378		WORKERS COMP AND WORKER SAFETY	TELECONFERENCED	
		{Bill Postponed to 3/6}		
		{Pending Referral}		
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
(H) RESOURCES			STANDING COMMITTEE	*
Mar 3	Friday	1:00 PM	CAPITOL 124	
		-- Meeting Canceled --		
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
(S) COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS			STANDING COMMITTEE	*
Mar 3	Friday	1:30 PM	FAHRENKAMP 203	
		No Meeting Scheduled		
(H) FINANCE			STANDING COMMITTEE	*
Mar 3	Friday	1:30 PM	HOUSE FINANCE 519	
+SB 7		INCREASE LAND GRANT TO UNIV. OF ALASKA	TELECONFERENCED	
= HB 218		MUSEUM ACQUISITION OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY		
		{Bill Held Over From 2/28}		
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
(S) JUDICIARY			STANDING COMMITTEE	*
Mar 3	Friday	1:30 PM	BELTZ 211	
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		TELECONFER.
(S) RESOURCES			STANDING COMMITTEE	*
Mar 3	Friday	3:00 PM	BUTROVICH 205	
= SB 273		OIL SPILL RESPONSE; NONTANK VESSELS & RR		
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
(H) LABOR & COMMERCE			STANDING COMMITTEE	*
Mar 3	Friday	3:15 PM	CAPITOL 17	
*+HB 398		LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSN	TELECONFERENCED	
+HB 224		PERA: NOTICE BEFORE STRIKE	TELECONFERENCED	
		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
(H) FINANCE			STANDING COMMITTEE	*
Mar 4	Saturday	9:00 AM	HOUSE FINANCE 519	

Testimony for 3/4/00 House Finance Committee meeting

● My goals are not modest. My life, education, and future is to empower Alaska through the improvement of the UA System. Only through improvement of our university system will Alaska thrive. Quality graduates and new research creates a powerful economy, which promotes a strong, flourishing state.

I transferred up here two years ago from Colorado State University. I feel the quality of education is much better at UAF. My professors are accessible, ● the classes are worthwhile, and my program, business administration, has the highest accreditation possible. We must promote the quality that UAF and the UA system has while looking for new avenues to increase appeal to prospective students and professors.

Through my employment at the Office of Admissions and my involvement in ASUAF Senate, I've been able to explore UAF's strengths and needs. UAF should emphasize its strengths, which include, but are not limited to, the ● sociology program, the accounting program and its 100% placement

Teleconference Announcement**TCN:** 10157**Date:** March 08, 2000 1:15 PM**Address:** 119 N CUSHMAN ST**Room:****Sponsor:** EXEC: DEPARTMENT OF H&SS, DFYS**Purpose:** PUB**Agenda:** PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES REGARDING
1: LICENSURE OF RESIDENTIAL PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT
CENTERS**Sponsor Remarks:****FAIRBANKS Teleconference Announcement****TCN:** 10514**Date:** March 08, 2000 1:30 PM**Sponsor:** SCRA: COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS**Purpose:** PUB**Agenda:** 1: HB 133 VOTER APPROVAL OF SERVICE AREA CHANGES
3: SB 284 FALSE CLAIMS AGAINST STATE OR MUNI.
2: HB 340 KETCHIKAN INDIAN CORPORATION AS A RHA**Sponsor Remarks:****Teleconference Announcement****TCN:** 10508**Date:** March 08, 2000 3:15 PM**Address:** 119 N CUSHMAN ST**Room:****Sponsor:** HL&C: LABOR & COMMERCE**Purpose:** PUB**Agenda:** 2: HB 422 WORKERS' COMPENSATION:DRUGS & ALCOHOL
4: Bills previously heard/scheduled
1: HB 334 CHARGE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA
3: HB 419 WORKERS' COMPENSATION**Sponsor Remarks:**

of graduates in accounting fields along with its success in math-modeling competitions. UAF needs to develop stronger associates programs in health fields and create undergraduate programs in tourism and marine biology.

These things can only happen with full funding of the university system. I love being here and my future after graduation lies in Alaska. I want the University to grow stronger. We need full funding so that the UA system can maximize its potential, create a strong Alaskan Economy, and receive the recognition it deserves.

Vanessa Spencer
UAF student



Teleconference Announcements

Main Menu Teleconference Announcement

Search

TCN: 10472

Date: March 03, 2000 9:00 AM

Address: 119 W CASHMAN ST

Room:

Sponsor: SFIN: FINANCE

Purpose: PUB

- Agenda:**
- 1: SB 95 SCHOOL GRADE LEVELS
 - 2: SB 105 PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING
 - 3: SB 198 INCREASE BASE ALLOCATION FOR EDUCATION
 - 4: SB 244 QUALITY SCHOOL GRANT FUND INCREASE

Sponsor Remarks:

FAIRBANKS Teleconference Announcement

TCN: 10468

Date: March 03, 2000 1:00 PM

Sponsor: HJUD: JUDICIARY

Purpose: PUB

- Agenda:**
- 2: HB 284 UNINSURED MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE
 - 1: HB 310 ALASKA INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION
 - 3: HB 378 WORKERS COMP AND WORKER SAFETY

Sponsor Remarks:

FAIRBANKS Teleconference Announcement

TCN: 10479

Date: March 03, 2000 1:30 PM

Sponsor: SJUD: JUDICIARY

Purpose: PUB

- Agenda:**
- 1: Bill Previously Heard or Scheduled

Sponsor Remarks:

To: All members of the State House and Senate Finance and Health, Education and SS Committees

From: Carter (Sally to some) Crawford, Member Chamber University Committee

2/28 Page 1 of 2

YOU HAVE HEARD THE NEED

NOW FIND THE MONEY

UA EDUCATION IS AN INVESTMENT THAT PAYS DIVIDENDS TO ALASKA PERMANENTLY!

Thank you any and all efforts to find this investment

Reaume is convinced Alaska can't establish a significant high-tech industry without a strong university system. He noted national software and pharmaceutical firms located in

Boston and Ann Arbor, Mich., home to major universities.

The University of Alaska system could be the best bet for the future, Reaume said, but would need increased investment since "as an institution it's been crippled," he said.

Other universities, like the University of California Los Angeles and the University of Rochester in New York, have beefed up their programs, he said.

In Alaska it would first require building and student housing repairs, followed by pumping up two or three departments with leading professors, perhaps in mining sciences, arctic engineering and biotechnology, he said.

Payout from the change could take several years but could attract more students and opportunities, he added.

"I think it's worth investigating," Goldsmith said. "If we don't put money in the university system we do a disservice to the next generation."

Page 2: Crawford to Finance and Education

I am no student of the budget so it is difficult for me to know where to find the \$16.9 million. I know you can.

I certainly support the 60 day session idea, and I was one of the few who voted to cap the PFD. However in my neighborhood the reason was simply greed. No one wanted to give up even a little to get a long-term payout. I really do not think they understood it.

I also support the new Higher Education Tax-Deferred Account, but want more provisions in it to restrict its use outside Alaska.

If it is illegal to require the money be spent only in the state, can we put a penalty on its withdrawal for out of state use prior to age 59 ½?

For the record, the \$25,000 payout is not the solution. I agree with every objection. However I have not seen anyone mention the impact this would have on local retailers. Without this infusion every Oct., many businesses that rely on the PFD to jump-start the important 4th quarter sales would suffer enormously.

Thank you for 'listening.'



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 committee name
 committee on _____, dated 3-04-00
 bill/subject

The University is important
 for the future of Alaska. By
fully funding the University
 you are supporting the
 future of Alaska

Signed: Robert Rumble
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
133 W. 24th #7
 Address
907-222-7756
 Phone No.

I support President Hamilton's budget plan for the rural university sites of Alaska. I enjoy the opportunities that have been presented to me to help further my education here at the U.A.F. in Nakhnek

4 MARCH 2000

Zoelle R. Nelson

I Abe Williams of King Salmon AK, am in strong support of : president Hamiltons Budget proposal for the rural learning sites. I fully believe that this is a very important learning tool for all rural residents, It would be very unfortunate to lose such a great program, in areas where learning programs are greatly appreciated.

Abe Williams _____


I am in support of President
Hamilton Proposed budget I have
recently taken classes at the NAKNEK
Campus and they have helped me
reach my full potential. Rural Campuses
are wonderful for those of us who
want to continue our education without
having to leave our villages.

Mary Swain

3/4/00

- I support President Hamilton's proposed budget for the Rural education of UAF campus in Valdez, AK. I use this campus frequently, and find it very useful and necessary.

Yvonne Landen



I support President Hamilton's
Proposed budget for the Rural
UAF offices. It's vital for
Continued education in rural
communities.

Laura Whitta



I am in support
of UAF Campus in Naknek.
I feel it is a necessary
program. I support president
Hamilton's budget for UAF Rural
Sites. The classes offered here
at the Naknek site have enriched
my life and helps me in my
continuing education. I am currently
working towards my B.A.

Krista Williams

Krista Williams

I Support The Rural education
System. Without this system ~~a~~ most
people would not be able to even get
a education. ~~and~~ and I feel it is
Very important

Jane Murr



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 committee on HB 312 . dated 3/4/2000
 bill/subject

I just got finish w/ a semester at the Anchorage Campus and am 1/2 way through ~~the~~ semester at KBC. I'm so grateful for KBC. Anchorage. was full students who didn't appreciate the school. → KBC students show true compassion for learning. ~~to~~ I / money went to people who would appreciate the most KBC would be rich.

Signed: Heidi So Gagnon
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 14254
 Address
235-2064
 Phone No.

3/04/00

● To House Finance Committee:

I support President Hamilton's proposed budget for UAF, especially to support the Rural Campuses.

I also support continued adequate funding for public broadcasting... this is the life blood of rural Alaska.

Thank you for your attention.

Jeff Adams

Jeff Adams

MAR-04-00 SAT 12:40 PM FAIRBANKS LIO
FROM: MARITI MUELLEN

FAX NO. 907 456 3346

P. 16/20

PO BOX 82724
FAIRBANKS AK 99708

TELECONFERENCE

(907) 479-6780

DATE: 03 04 00

Thank you for your service to the state of Alaska. I am an alumna of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. As an alumna I speak for many Alaskans when I say our state should be proud of our alma mates. Many of our community leaders and even our legislators are alumni, have worked for the university, received or sold ~~some~~ services from or for the university, or hired university alumni and students. With the myriad ways the university has worked in Alaskan lives it has been disappointing to see declines in enrollment, faculty, and services but yet student tuition and fees increase. Last year's increase to the UofA budget was met with enthusiasm and renewed spirit by our administrators, students, and Board of Regents. I hope the legislature carries this spirit forward by investing in the UofA now. I wholeheartedly support the \$16.9 million dollar increase to the UofA general fund. I encourage the house finance committee to meet the challenges of the new millennium by supporting this increase. Our state deserves an educated workforce, dedicated citizens, and educational opportunities the UofA can offer.

(And I'm sorry about my crack on UofA being under-represented in the legislature and maybe they should start producing more dedicated citizens).

Mariti Muel

Testimony for 3/4/00 House Finance Committee meeting

● My goals are not modest. My life, education, and future is to empower Alaska through the improvement of the UA System. Only through improvement of our university system will Alaska thrive. Quality graduates and new research creates a powerful economy, which promotes a strong, flourishing state.

I transferred up here two years ago from Colorado State University. I feel the quality of education is much better at UAF. My professors are accessible, ● the classes are worthwhile, and my program, business administration, has the highest accreditation possible. We must promote the quality that UAF and the UA system has while looking for new avenues to increase appeal to prospective students and professors.

Through my employment at the Office of Admissions and my involvement in ASUAF Senate, I've been able to explore UAF's strengths and needs. UAF should emphasize its strengths, which include, but are not limited to, the ● sociology program, the accounting program and its local placement

of graduates in accounting fields along with its
● success in math-modeling competitions. UAF needs
to develop stronger associates programs in health fields
and create undergraduate programs in tourism and
marine biology.

These things can only happen with
full funding of the university system. I love being
here and my future after graduation lies in Alaska.
● I want the University to grow stronger. We need
full funding so that the UA system can maximize
its potential, create a strong Alaskan Economy, and
receive the recognition it deserves.

Vanessa Spencer
UAF student



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee on HB 312 Operating Budget dated 3/4/00
bill/subject committee name

Hello my name is Heather Reichenberg - and I am testifying for the full increase on the University's Operating Budget of \$16.9 million, for new operating funds that could put higher ed. in this state on track.

I am a full-time student at UAA at the KISC branch. Also Vice-Pres. on the S.A. I am here speaking on behalf of all the Officers & reps on the S.A. - included w/ quotes from our Pass over Treasurer. There are also 3 students here to testify. First off I believe funding Education should not be a question or put on the back burner. Since it is, I would like you to take into account the benefits that universities offer their states. Benefits that we as a state are losing. Such as new business, industry, cultural influences & outlets. Recognition from the rest of the nation as a state that provide its citizens w/ a promising economy due to ~~its~~ ~~the~~ good/promising education. But also a state that is in line w/ the rest of the world.

Signed: Heather Reichenberg Heather Reichenberg
 Testifier
 VA
 Representing (Optional)
 P.O. Box 11685 Homer, AK 99103
 Address
 399-7433
 Phone No.

For example, we should be attracting college bound students into the state, not out. 60% of Alaska's college bound students leave this state, to then work for those states. This University offers fewer programs than any other western college or University.

This state has only increased its higher education spending by 2%, while other oil states have increased by 57%. To me these facts are insulting - the fact that you will not take into account ~~the~~ the education of the people who support & love this state.

I love this state, it is my birthplace. I do not need to leave to receive quality education - if you ~~will~~ support my needs. How does this lack of support make not only my future, but also the states future look?

(Annie Pao) "Alaskans possess some of the largest & most valuable resources in the world. Alaskans want to possess the tools to effectively utilize our untapped markets without exploiting our resources. Education will enable Alaskans to empower themselves, thus maintaining our quality of life."

The University has made due - by losing 230 full-time faculty, & preventing advancement. Leaving \$121 million dollars worth in repairs.

The University budget that was prepared by the board of regents asks for \$16.9 million in full. \$11.6 million is NEEDED to meet salary, inflation & program maintenance. An additional \$5.3 million will allow a continuation of programs that we have this year. ~~the~~ Finding for Databases for Alaskans (An essential research tool) is needed.

I believe that one of the five cornerstones of this state and our nation, is quality education! To refuse the people in a democratic nation this empowerment is a grave mistake. We understand the challenge this committee faces, but will leave you with this quote by Derek Bok:

"If you think education is expensive,
TRY IGNORANCE."

Page 2 of 2
Reichenberg

MUSEUM

To the House Finance Committee

I am also faxing this testimony because I abbreviated it in order to present within the one-minute limit imposed on those of us who testified in Anchorage. I now see by looking at Gavel to Gavel that you are not restricting others to one minute, so I respectfully submit these comments.

I am Donna Matthews, Executive Director of Museums Alaska, a member organization of museums, museum professionals, and museum supporters.

We are relieved that you are no longer considering eliminating the budget for the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Nor are you considering moving the collection to another location. But we are still concerned that you are considering a budget cut of 20%—\$56,000—that means that the Sheldon Jackson Museum will be closed for 2 months.

Do you know what a 2-month closure means in this Museum?

The collection—Alaska's premier ethnographic collection valued at more than \$13.5 million dollars—will be at risk from all the lurking pests, systems failures, human errors and evils that can threaten valuable objects. Even the best intentions of a skeleton staff will not be comparable to the diligence of the FOUR staff (2 = professionally-trained museum staff; 2 = security/visitor services) who now care for this incomparable treasure.

There will be no revenue from program or admissions during that 2 months, nor will there be opportunities to plan and develop programs to generate revenue during that time. But you stated in intent language last year, that this Museum should increase its program receipts, and you propose this year that the Museum earn an additional \$30,000 in program receipts. How can a facility increase program receipts when it is closed for 1/6th of the year?

Do you know what the Sheldon Jackson Museum means to all of us?

This Museum is as comprehensive a representation of Alaska's cultural heritage as you will find.

Continued, next page

Continued from preceding page

- At 111 years, The Sheldon Jackson is the oldest museum in the State. It is a statewide facility that provides educational and curatorial services all around the State..
- This Museum provides hands-on objects to schools and libraries and tourism groups all over the State. Last year, 10,590 people handled these objects—and even more visited the Museum in person.
- The collection is the most historically significant in the State. Its Alaska Native artifacts are among the oldest and highest quality.
- Even the building is historically significant. It is the first concrete structure erected in Alaska and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Do you know why this cut is before you?

Last year, you proposed in intent language that the Museum become self-supporting. This language was vetoed by the Governor. We believe that you did not have all the information you needed to make a sound recommendation about this Museum at that time. AND we know that you do not have all the information now. This budget cut came to you from the Governor's office because Education Dept. staff wanted to avoid your closing the Museum. That is laudable, but no one who participated in this recommendation is a trained museum professional who knows what the real impact of this closure means to Alaska's most valuable cultural heritage collection. That impact is significant and may potentially damage the collection and will surely have a negative effect on the quality of this great Museum.

Museums Alaska urges you to remove this cut from your budget consideration until you have all the information you need to make a sound decision for the future of this remarkable and valuable Alaska cultural heritage resource. Sheldon Jackson initiated his collecting for this museum because he was appalled by the mass exodus of Alaska's objects to museums and collectors in the rest of the United States. He understood this vision: that if the "stuff" isn't here for us to see, to hold, to share, our children, our visitors, our future generations will not know who we are and what we did here.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AFIN
Finance Comm.
 committee name
 committee on Budget, dated 3/4/00
 bill/subject

Please do not close Sheldon Jackson Museum.
 It is an important collection that should stay
 together in the oldest Museum in the state.
 It has been used in exhibits traveling the state -
 and nation - including Yupik Mask Exhibit curated by
 Anchorage Museum a few years ago. There will
 be a cost and trauma to saleable artifacts
 moving them and putting them in other
 museums.

Signed Jennie Clark
 Testifier
 Museums AK (Sheldon Jackson Museum)
 Representing (Optional)
 Address PO Box 1912 Valdez - 99686
 Phone No 835-2421 day - 20964



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the EDUCATION
 committee name
 committee on SHELDON JACKSON, dated 3/4/00
 bill/subject MUSEUM

I URGE YOU TO RECONSIDER THE PROPOSED
 \$56,000 CUT TO THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR
 SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM FOR FY 2001.

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM IS THE OLDEST
 MUSEUM IN THE STATE WITH ONE OF THE STRONGEST
 RECORDS ~~EXTENDING~~ OUTRICH TO A STATEWIDE
 CONSTITUENCY BOTH IN TERMS OF ITS EDUCATIONAL
 PROGRAMS AND REPRESENTATION OF ALL OF THE
 ALASKA NATIVE CULTURES WITHIN THE STATE.

I, AND MANY OTHERS ARE AFRAID IF THIS
 CUT BECOMES A REALITY, IT WILL BE THE
 FIRST STEP IN AN IRREVERSIBLE DIRECTION
 WHICH COULD ULTIMATELY DESTROY ONE OF THE
 STATES MOST VALUABLE ASSETS.

Signed: Janet L. Steinerquist JANET L. STEINERQUIST
 Testifier
FRIENDS OF SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM
 Representing (Optional) BOARD
P.O. Box 2462 SITKA, AK 99835
 Address
(907) 966-4623
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance
 committee name
 co.mmittee on St. Museum
cut or removal, dated March 4, 2000.
 bill/subject

Dear Sirs & Ms.

Alderson Jackson Museum is our
 heritage here in Sitka. it goes
 beyond tourism. it goes to education
 and native studies as well students
 using museum -
 it feels like once a again a jewel
 making a part of our property
 & heritage

Signed: Susan Stanford
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
709 Lincoln St Sitka
 Address
907 747 4900
 Phone No.

*Elizabeth Pontti Eufemio, MA, RPA
P.O. Box 907
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-7004, FAX (907) 486-7048
libby@eagle.ptialaska.net*

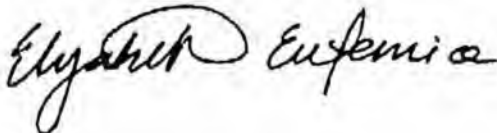
February 28, 2000

Representative Eldon Mulder
FAX (907) 465-3518

Dear Representative Mulder,

I am writing you because I am concerned about the status of the Sheldon Jackson Museum. I strongly urge you to support continued funding of this wonderful and historic museum. You might not realize how great an impact the Sheldon Jackson Museum has across the state of Alaska. On many occasions I have used the museum's Hands-On Loan program, both for staff training and for enrichment here at the Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak. I have found this service invaluable - nowhere else can museum professionals so easily access materials such as these on a loan basis. Programs such as these serve rural Alaska and should continue to be supported at their current level. I hope you will reconsider your position and vote to preserve this state treasure.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth P. Eufemio
Collections Manager
Alutiiq Museum

Representative Eldon Mulder, Alaska State Legislature

I am an Anchorage resident and an ardent supporter of Alaska's cultural heritage. I write to urge you to reject any cuts to the budget for the state's museums and especially to voice my concern over proposals that are being suggested to cut or eliminate funding for the Sheldon Jackson Museum.

Unfortunately, most of the objects of our history (Native and non-native) have left Alaska. Those of us who are concerned about our great cultural heritage can still, however, point with pride and enthusiasm to the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka as one of the most significant repositories of our history still remaining in the state.

These are some of the reasons why I urge you to continue responsible support for this important cultural institution:

- **The Sheldon Jackson Museum is charged by statute with collecting and preserving the evidence of Alaska's past and providing programs to educate the public and to assist small museums around the state.**
The Alaska State Museums (Juneau and Sitka) are charged by statute (AS 14.57.010) with collecting and preserving the evidence of Alaska's past and providing programs to educate the public and to assist small museums around the state. The staff has experienced a 41% cut since FY 1986. With less money than was appropriated in 1986, the Museum is required to care for and administer a collection valued at millions of dollars.
- **The Sheldon Jackson Museum is a statewide facility,** providing educational services to schools and libraries all around Alaska. Its collection formed the nucleus for the highly regarded Yup'ik Masks exhibition that traveled throughout Alaska and nationally to great acclaim. One of its most far reaching programs is the Hands-on Loan program. Over a one-year period 10,590 people (other than Museum visitors) had the opportunity to interact with these materials in their schools, libraries, local museums and through exhibits on board ships.
- **The Sheldon Jackson Museum is an important visitor destination.** In 1999 the Museum served 18,872 people. There were 9579 general public visitors; 4034 were visitors coming through on bus tours. Forty-five researchers made use of the Museum's collections.
- **The Sheldon Jackson Museum is important in the story of our state's history.** At 111 years, The Sheldon Jackson is the oldest museum in the state. The building that houses the Museum's collection is the first concrete structure ever built in Alaska. Its significance is recognized by placement on the National Register of Historical Places. The collection of objects at the Sheldon Jackson Museum is acknowledged as the most important ethnographic collection in the state.

Our museums and cultural centers care for our cultural objects so that we can share our stories with our children and our visitors, and we can explain and describe ourselves to future generations. We rely on objects to help us tell the story of what we have been and what we might become. I hope you will reject any cuts to the budget for the state's museums.

Donna Matthews

Donna Matthews
8916 Gloralee St
Anchorage AK
907-243-4714

9541 Victor Road
Anchorage, AK 99515
25 February 2000

VIA FAX

Rep. Eldon Mulder 465-3518
Rep. Lisa Murkowski 465-2293
Rep. John Coghill 465-3258
Rep. Andrew Halcro 465-2418
Rep. Sharon Cissna 465-4588
Rep. Jeannette James 465-2381
Rep. Rcggie Joule 465-4586

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I was distressed to hear of the proposed \$56,000 reduction of the Sheldon Jackson Museum's funding. I understand that the Department of Education's proposal for this cut was a response to a legislator's misapprehension that the State has two museums, which I am quite sure you know is not the case.

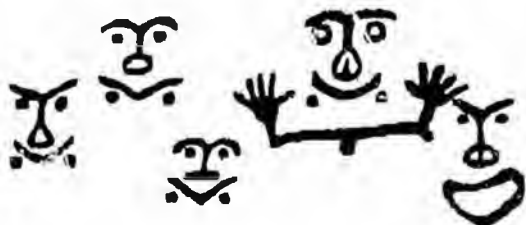
The acquisition of the Sheldon Jackson Museum by the Alaska State Museum was a major step in assuring the preservation, in perpetuity, for the benefit of the people of the State, of a truly major collection of literally irreplaceable anthropological materials. The present decision appears to place that collection under a significant and unacceptable threat.

I urge you to either press the Department of Education to find other, less damaging, places to make cuts in its budget, or, failing that, adding funds to that budget to correct the problem.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Diters
Former Chair, Alaska State Museum
Collections Advisory Committee



Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository

215 Mission Road, Suite 101, Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-7004 Fax: (907) 486-7048 E-mail: alutiiq2@ptialaska.net

February 28, 2000

Honorable Eldon Mulder
Honorable Lisa Murkowski

Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801


Re: Funding for Sheldon Jackson Museum

Dear Representatives Mulder and Murkowski,

I am writing to express our most serious concern with your proposal to close the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka. This wonderful facility and its professional staff have been an outstanding resource for small museums like ours. We have relied on their experience in rural Alaska to help us serve our remote community. They have set an outstanding example and their hard work deserves recognition not termination. Moreover, it is simply not appropriate for all of Alaska's treasures to be stored in urban centers. Rural Alaska's heritage should not be removed from its home simply because it is more convenient. Both state and federal historic preservation laws recognize the importance of curating objects in the communities they most closely reflect. Sheldon Jackson's collection may be from across Alaska, but it reflects the development of Sitka and is a cornerstone of the community's history.

I urge you to maintain funding for the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Rural Alaska deserves access to the objects of its heritage. The collection belongs in Sitka where it can continue to educate and inspire the community and its visitors. Closing it would be a tragedy. I cannot believe that Alaska would mortgage its heritage in such a way.

Sincerely,


Amy Steffian
Deputy Director / Curator

cc. Bruce Kato, Chief Curator, Alaska State Museum, Juneau
Kristen Griffin, Board Chair, Sheldon Jackson Museum, Sitka

Hames Corp.Hames Corp.
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rogerhames@seamart.com

Facsimile

To: Senator Eldon Mulder, Chair
House Finance Committee on the
Education Budget
@Fax: 907-465-3518
From: Roger L. Hames
Date: Monday, February 28, 2000 @ 9:29 AM
Re: Sheldon Jackson Museum
Pages: 1, including this

Dear Senator Mulder,

I am writing to inform you that I strongly oppose the proposed part time closure of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, one of Alaska's two state museums. The state museums are an important part of Alaska's educational system. They are also important economic resources, serving our statewide visitor industry. The proposed closure of the Sheldon Jackson Museum will reduce the Department of Education and Early Development budget by only \$56,000 but will hurt our region by causing the loss of permanent full time jobs and restricting public access to an important visitor destination. It will also prevent the museum from being used as it was intended: as a statewide educational and cultural resource available to the public. This loss will be felt by thousands of Alaskans who benefit from the programs of the Sheldon Jackson Museum.

Sincerely,

