

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

2010

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1999 - 2000



NEA-ALASKA

Affiliated with the National Education Association

State Commitment to School Funding: A Declining Priority

Senate Finance Committee – March 23, 2000

Current Public School Funding in Alaska for FY 00 is \$689,054,300. Proposed funding for FY 01 is \$669,887,400. This represents the state's financial commitment to children. The difference of \$19.17 million is a significant decrease. This difference coupled with the impact of inflation cancels virtually all of the approximately \$26 million in increased funding to schools provided by SB 36 in 1998.

Rather than using an excuse to decrease state funding, the Association believes that the state should be adding funding to its funding program to fully pay for the cost of testing, adequately funding pupil transportation, and funding needed school maintenance and construction.

Cost of school reform and student testing

The Quality Schools Initiative embodied now in statute and through Department of Education and Early Development regulation imposes a significant new cost to school districts. The additional collateral costs of the high school qualifying examination and the benchmark examination program at grades 3, 6, and 8 have never been acknowledged let alone calculated.

We estimate it will cost \$26.95 million to provide direct materials, training and personnel to students who perform poorly on the benchmark examinations or on the high school qualifying examinations. On a per student basis statewide this amounts to underfunding by over \$200 per student.

The breakdown for the \$26.95 million is as follows:

High school qualifying examination:	
Materials component	\$ 1.6 million
Benchmark examinations in grades 3, 6, and 8	
Material component	\$ 4.8 million

Remediation and direct assistance to students Personnel component	\$20.55 million
	<hr/>
Total for reform measures	\$26.95 million

Does a decrease in enrollment cause a decrease in spending?

Even though the enrollment is declining, the proposed decrease in school funding really misses opportunities and falls short of providing basic fiscal support. The primary reason for the decrease in the Foundation Program is due to a decrease in student enrollment of approximately 3,000. The decrease comes after over a decade of annual increases. Even though AS 14.17.500 requires a district to consider the "pattern of growth or decline of the student population in preceding years," the counts set in motion a decision that mean less for schools. The flaw in this reduction assumes that a corresponding reduction in basic operation of schools occurs. Basic necessary services from employment of school personnel to payment of the heating and electric bills do not go away because a school has a few less children. (A loss of 3,000 students statewide out of 133,000 is slightly more than 2%.)

Pupil transportation may not be adequately funded.

Concerning pupil transportation services, a shortfall of \$2.1 million in the current year, coupled with a \$5.1 million budget request for next year casts another cloud over school districts. We understand that it appears likely that the \$2.1 million will be funded however, failure to fund the supplemental and the increase for next year will no doubt tax local school district budgets. We fear that many districts will be forced to take dollars from instruction to fund transportation.

School construction and maintenance

Over the years school facilities and buildings have suffered from inattention and inadequate maintenance.

Even though you will not directly consider school maintenance and construction needs of school today, we are pleased that two proposals to fund school construction and maintenance are before the legislature. One proposal (SB 228/HB 336) by the governor will fund \$510 million in school construction and maintenance projects over the next three years. Another proposal (HB 281) by House Finance contains \$500 million earmarked for school construction and maintenance along with \$165 million in other capital projects.

Fiscal plan

NEA-Alaska stood with you last year and worked for passage of the balanced budget plan advisory vote. We did this for two clear reasons: First, the state needs to develop a fiscal plan that utilizes the state's savings accounts and taxes to fund services including schools, and second, without a plan we feared that K-12 public school would be cut. Today, we are still committed to working with you to develop a fiscal plan to stabilize funding to the many services that make our youngsters more intelligent, healthier, happier and safer.

It seems that at a time when we have less it is difficult to quench our state's thirst for more. More is wanted from schools.

Who is being tested?

The state's system of elementary and secondary schools were put to another test this month when our state's approximately 10,000 tenth graders took an exam that they must successfully pass to graduate in 2002. Another 30,000 third, sixth and eighth graders were also tested. The history of public K-12 schools has been punctuated with one test after another. The idea of a free public education regardless of a person's income, race or status in life has been subject to test on too many occasions. Our schools educate children with special needs along side those who are gifted; our schools educate future scientists along side those who will be future plumbers and carpenters; our schools have become the very mirror of each village and city in Alaska. In serving all our children, one public institution has historically withstood the test of providing a universal opportunity to learn – K-12 public schools.

The question is not whether children should be tested but whether the legislative and executive branch passes the test by providing each child the resources so each student can take full advantage of the opportunity to do something positive from this.

To do less is failure.

Written Public Testimony
For HB 912/HB 913
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be filed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

We the signers of this letter have owned property on the Denali Highway since the early 1950's. We have owned a lodge there for thirty years. We have always been in operation by the 20th of May. It is our livelihood. Also our employees. We have over 500 bird watcher people in June from the lower 48. That's tourist money for the state and the Denali Highway in June is the best place to see several different birds. If the highway melts by itself it will run water down the sides and wash the paved section out. If it is opened by people with lodges or businesses on one lane it will do the same if the ditches are not opened and will cost much more money to repave the portions of the highway that are destroyed. The decision to open the other highways and not the Denali I ask you please to be considered.

Name Naidine and Jack Johnson

Address Box 783

City Delta Jct. zip AK 99737

**Testimony re: HB 312 and 313
March 23, 2000**

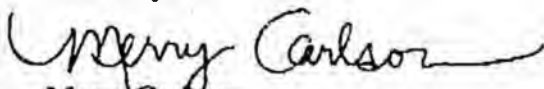
Yesterday, March 22, 2000, there were four Title 47s in Barrow in less than twelve hours -- that is, four individuals who were assessed as being a danger to self or others and requiring immediate psychiatric stabilization. Without mental health professionals to respond, these individuals might have hurt themselves or others in the community. Why are so many individuals in such need? The question is too complex to grapple with here; however, some of these individuals have gone into crisis because they remained on waiting lists for services too long. The underlying issues could relate to mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, or many other areas in which continued funding is critical.

In our North Slope community of less than 8,000, three or more individuals per week who are new to the system seek critical human services the system is too burdened to provide. They are coming because they see the success of existing programs and because their needs are overwhelming. Some of these individuals go on to experience major crises which affect the individual, the family, the community, and the state -- the kind of crises which may lead them to become a "Title 47" danger to self or others.

If mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, corrections, children's residential services, and related programs are cut, the problems experienced by these individuals will continue to grow. It will take more services at higher expense to return individuals to states where they can function independently. Some will never be able to do so. Study after study shows that prevention and early intervention are effective not only in human terms, but in the cost of providing services as well.

Whether we look at the outcome in human potential or in dollar signs, the best results will be obtained by continuing to provide the maximum possible services to those in need. Please do everything possible to preserve and expand funding for social services.

Sincerely,



Merry Carlson
Deputy Director, Behavioral Health
North Slope Borough
P.O. Box 69
Barrow, AK 99723

Written Public Testimony
For HB 212/HD 213
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6392 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be filed by the LIC. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

I have just heard that all of the roads are going to be open except the Denali Hwy.

I feel this is wrong because I work on the Denali and the 5-6 months I work is my sole income, I will not be able to make it on 4 months income. We have tours and people booked in the month of May, what are these people to do? The road is a road that should be open. I have worked there nine years and feel that it's not right for the rest to be opened and not ours.

Name Walt Dickinson
Address Mile 20 Denali Hwy
City Parkus Zip 99732

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/IIB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Please Keep full funding for
the domestic violence and sexual
assault council.

Name Susan Stafford

Address 404 Eadies Way #2

City Kenai zip 99611

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

I am the legal advocate at Sitkans Against Family Violence. Legal assistance, support and information is IMPERATIVE for women who are survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The legal system can be overwhelming and confusing and without adequate, informed and consistent support through the system, women often remain in or return to dangerous situations which compromise their physical safety and the safety of their children.

Victims of domestic violence are often conditioned to see a minimum of options in making the break to safety. Programs such as ours do important and necessary work as we continue to inform them of their rights and options.

Name Vicki D'Amico
Address PO Box 2191
City Sitka Zip 99835

TOTAL P.02

TOTAL P.04

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

I would like the Senate Finance Committee Members to know how helpful and appreciated the half-time position of Rural Outreach Coordinator for Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV) has been by Kake, Angoon and Port Alexander. This position has been providing Prevention and Education to students of the above communities for the past eight years. Presentations have included "good/bad touch" for children up to 6th grade and discussions of boundaries and dating violence for the older students. SAFV offers training for safe home providers who graciously open their home to victims of battering and sexual assault for a maximum of 72 hours which allows the person to consider options opened to her by the safe home provider and others. There is a Dei Awe (translated to English means enough!) group that was organized for women who are saying "Enough" to physical, emotional, and mental abuse. I hope and pray that this committee will join the group in saying Dei Awe-enough! And continue to provide monetary support.

Name Mary J. Miller
Address PO BOX 1543
City SITKA, AK zip 99835

**Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony**

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Dear Committee Members,

The SAFV Children's Program has successfully increased its School Support Group attendance significantly (nearly 35 students per week) for Grades 3-8 over the last several months. School Groups focus on preventative measures for at-risk youth. Students participate in activities aimed not only at increasing their awareness about Domestic Violence, Personal Safety, Drug and Alcohol Education, Responsibility, Self-Esteem, and Anger Management, but also discussing those issues facing them daily in their home lives.

Over the course of the past months the students improvement is evinced not only in their individual demeanors but the overall cohesiveness of each group. Group members recognize peer support for their issues available in both one another and the group facilitator. It is exciting to see how well students have been responding. Education is the best prevention.

Name STACEY NOEM

Address PO BOX 6136

City SITKA Zip 99835

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

My name is Deb Knoff and I am the Resource Coordinator for the SAFV Shelter in Sitka.

We are dedicated to stopping violence and to educating our communities about domestic violence and sexual assault. We wear many hats when being a single point of access for advocacy, shelter and support 24 hours a day and we are committed to continuing these services. As the number of victims increase, so does the need for our program and allocated dollars to do it well. To provide these services will in the long run be cost effective for the state and enhance the lives of children. It is our hope, our dream and our vision that one day violence will no longer exist. Until then, please allow us to keep our families, our friends, and our communities safe through continued funding of domestic violence and sexual assault services.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to tell you of the valuable programs provided by SAFV and other statewide programs.

Name Deb Knoff

Address PO Box 364

City Sitka Zip 99835

Homer L10 List #1

FAX 465-6592

Page 1 of 1



Teleconference

SPONSOR: (S) Finance

HB 312 Operating
HB 313 Mental Health

DATE: March 23, 2000

TIME: START 6:00 END 10:00

TCN# 10599

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	TESTIFYING		WHAT SUBJECT OR BILL?
						Y	N	
MERRITT MITCHELL	UAF Alumni KPC Advisory RBC Council	Box 2384 Homer 99603	99603	235- 6837		<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	University Funding
						<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
						<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
						<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
						<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
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- E-mail will not go through.
 - I have one to testify Homer
 6:10 PM
 Norma

P. 01

FAX NO. 11

MAR-23-00 THU 06:20 PM HOMER L10

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

I AM CONCERNED THAT A GENERAL
REDUCTION OF FUNDING FOR PUBLIC
RADIO WILL END IN SHUTTING
DOWN THE STATIONS WHICH ARE
NEEDED MOST. IF YOU TELL THE
BIG BOYS OF PUBLIC RADIO TO
CUT A GIVEN NUMBER OF DOLLARS
THEY WILL ~~#~~ (I HAVE LITTLE DOUBT)
PLACE THOSE CUTS FAR FROM THEIR
OFFICES IN ANCHORAGE AND FAIRBANKS.
THEY WILL IGNORE THE FACT THAT
PUBLIC RADIO IS NEEDED MOST ON
THE FRONTIERS, NOT THE LARGE

Name FRANK E. COOK METRO AREAS

Address PO BOX 2255 CAN YOU HELP?

City VALDEZ Zip 99686

THANK YOU

FRANK COOK

835-2097

For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Please also visit our public radio's
budget.

Name Kathy Reddick Ala. point
Address 310 Pioneer
City Valdez Alc. 99686
Zip

1-907-835-5554

For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

KCHU 770am Valdez, KXKM McCarthy 89.7FM
& KXGA Glennallen 90.5 Fm provides
public radio service to Prince William
Sound & the Copper River Valley with
one state grant.

KCHU maintains a 9KW Emergency
generator at our downtown Studio
and a 30 KW Emergency ^{generator} at our
old town transmitter site.

Severe state funding cuts have
hurt this station.

More cuts backs in state funding
with result in the loss of
federal matching dollars.

Please restore funding
for public radio.

Name Lisa West
General Manager KCHU
Address Box 2559
City Valdez, AK zip 99686

Lisa West

For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Public Radio is my lifeline!
As a senior citizen my income is limited, so cable T.V. is not a variable. I have been listening to Public Radio for as long as it has been in existence. It keeps me informed, entertained, & up-to the latest news. ~~State~~ ^{Local} Regional, State, National & world-wide.

It will be a dark world without Public Broadcasting. Please reconsider your amount of reduction in the budget. My local station is KCHU 740 AM.

Name Connie Green

Address POB 382

City Valdez, AK zip 99686

For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Please restore Public Radio's budget - it's very important to our communities -

Name Sue Cogswell

Address Box 873

City Walden Zip AK 99586

For HD 312/HB 315
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LMD. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Public Radio ... is the only
means of communication
available to some folks -
Restore the House cuts
to the the Public Radio Budget
No communication is always a
Bad idea —

Name J Anderson

Address PIB 1956

City Valdez zip AK 99686

For HB 312/HH 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Please restore Public Radio
Budget.

Name Susan Epp

Address P.O. Box 1866

City Valdez Zip 99686

For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to
835 - 2097
Valdez
LIO

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Please do not allow any more budget cuts for our public radio service. This service (our radio station KCHU-Valdez) is essential to provide a variety of programming & information to a large listening audience that many of us would not have if KCHU is taken away.

Name Donna Lavik-Worberg

Address P.O. Box 33

City Valdez zip AK 99686

3/24/97

To: Senate Finance Committee
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Failure to fund infrastructure destruct
Economy and society

From: James P. Fisher, 171 Farnsworth, Soldo
Phone: 262-9601 - fax: 262-96

An unnamed theologian said "the self righteous will lead us to hell", which prompts an analogy that permissive deterioration of Alaska's infrastructures or programs could fling us into a stagnant economy or some social hell.

This budget cycle should avoid any reduction in the need (yes, and the opportunity) to invest in our state's:

- children, by enhancing and maintaining, medical, protective and corrective programs, i.e., Denali KidCare for families without health insurance, increase educational funds so our kids will stay home (so your grandchildren desire to attend U of A?), and protect those children who might be neglected or abused...all of these opportunities are before this Legislature..
- infrastructure maintenance, i.e., adequate revenues for highway maintenance, is only one example...
- public radio system (cut 70% in recent years) - the only channel with a statewide reach, so essential to keep our citizens and neighbors informed and educated..

Over and over we hear Alaska will not grow, or cut, its way out of the perceived fiscal gap. The Legislature appears rigidly focused on numbers, while apparently ignoring the adverse impact of funding reductions on essential services?

(Do we, you, refuse to listen to warnings that our failure to have a reasonable statewide tax, on individual citizens for essential public needs, can cause business investment to shy away from Alaska (Anchorage News, 3/16/97)? And that failure to maintain roads, schools, and quality infrastructure, can prompt business to avoid a state so blindly economizing.)

Will my Alaskan neighbors and I come to our senses, and insist more be spent on education and other essential, services - so we share both advantages and responsibility?

3/24/00
Senator Ferguson:
Would you have
your staff
deliver copies
of this communication
to the Senate Finance
Committee
Thank you

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

There are many reasons why college courses & continuing education classes should be continued in rural areas. Due to complicated travel logistics in rural Alaska, local college courses may be their lifeline to keeping up with the quickly advancing technology of the outside world. The budget & money appropriated to Uof A should not be cut to the "bush" area. A cross-section of the Alaskan population would not fairly served if this money were kept only in urban areas.

Name Melanie Peggib

Address Box 102

City King Salmon AK Zip 99613

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

It is important to continue to fund post secondary schooling, especially in rural Alaska because the cost of moving family and job to the urban site is often times impossible. Providing monies for the rural university system is essential in order to keep up current job skills & technology. UAF has been able to provide ~~any~~ many teachers and educators with up to date courses to teach ^{the} Alaska standards without having UAF to provide this information to teachers, we would have great difficulty to meet this goal of Alaska - Quality Schools

Name Phyllis Lawson
Address P.O. Box 65
City Naknek Zip 99633

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6392 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

I believe continuing education in rural Alaska is an important part of the University System.

Alaska is a unique state, combining both drive in and "Bush" communities. By funding both parts of Alaska, the University can help guarantee a future for all Alaskans, not simple for the residents of "Urban" Alaska.
Let's continue to provide Education for ALL Alaskans!

Name Amy Wilcox
Address P.O. Box 223
City King Salmon zip 99613

FAX TRANSMITTAL



STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DEBORAH B. SEDWICK
COMMISSIONER

JEFFREY W. BUSH
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1770
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
TELEPHONE: (907) 269-8100
FAX: (907) 269-8127

P.O. BOX 110800
JUNEAU AK 99811-0800
TELEPHONE: (907) 465-2500
FAX: (907) 465-5442

TO: Senator Sean Parnell DATE: 3/24/00

COMPANY: _____

FAX NO.: 907-465-6592

FROM: Commissioner Debby Sedwick

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:

HARD COPY TO FOLLOW? YES NO

RE: _____

If fax does not transmit properly, please call
(907) 269-8111 immediately

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Tony Knowles, Governor

Office of the Commissioner

550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1770, Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Telephone: (907) 269-8100 • Fax: (907) 269-8127 • TDD: (907) 465-5437

Email: questions@dced.state.ak.us • Website: www.dced.state.ak.us/

March 24, 2000

Alaska State Senate
Alaska House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Legislator:

This letter is in response to Representative Cowdery's letter of March 24th. The letter contained numerous factual errors about our department.

As part of their contribution to the operation of the Northern Forum, Hokkaido seconded one of its staff to work at the Northern Forum secretariat office in Anchorage. The reason for his departure from Anchorage can be found in the December minutes of the Northern Forum Steering Committee. According to those minutes, "due to economic difficulties, Hokkaido will suspend sending a regional representative to the secretariat." See attached minutes.

Northern Forum's mission is to improve the quality of life of Northern peoples, to support sustainable development and cooperative socio-economic initiatives among Northern regions. This mission is quite different than that of Trade and Development.

Payments to World Trade Center Alaska have been made on a regular, timely basis as stipulated under the terms of the grant agreement. Please call Executive Director Robin Zerbel for confirmation.

DCED and the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation enjoy a close, cooperative working relationship. In fact, AEDC is a strong supporter of DCED and in just the past few weeks its Board of Directors passed a resolution urging the Legislature to restore funding for DCED's budget. See attached letter and resolution. For confirmation call Larry Crawford, President.

Again Representative Cowdery writes about issues that I cannot possibly address, such as "fear of reprisal." If he has any proof, I sincerely wish he would share it with House and Senate leadership. I believe these allegations to be biased and untrue. Once again, the department is put in the defensive position of spending our limited state resources to counter misinformation and allegations, rather than spending our time productively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah B. Sedwick".

Deborah B. Sedwick
Commissioner

Attachments

"Promoting a healthy economy and strong communities"



STEERING COMMITTEE

Summary and Recommendations of the Steering Committee Meeting

15-17 December 1999
Anchorage, Alaska

Attendees:

1. Alaska: Michael Johnson
2. Hokkaido: Hitoshi Shichida, Saturo Murai and Masahiro Takeuchi (Yoshi Ogawa, interpreter)
3. Lapland: Hannu Viranto (Eeva Maria Taina, interpreter)
4. Sakha: Anastassia Bozhedonova (Maria Rodomakina, interpreter)
5. Secretariat: John Doyle and Priscilla Wohl
6. Alberta (observer): Rockford Lang
7. Norrbotten (observer): Hans Groth, Projektchef, North Sweden European Liaison Office

General remarks and issues that arose many times during the meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 on the morning of 15 December 1999, and continued with few breaks until 11:30 on 17 December. Following the record of the meeting is a list of Action Items.

The NF is a member-driven organization, and much responsibility lies with the Regional Coordinators (RCs) and the member governments. The Secretariat cannot be responsible for most of the organization's activities.

The NF must strictly prioritize all its activities, and specific items regarding the implementation of the members' priorities must be included in all discussions, plans and budgets.

The Steering Committee (SteerCom) members and Secretariat together need to develop a NF Action Plan. A concrete plan, agreed by all NF members, will help everyone to explain the organization's activities and plans to others, particularly those in the commercial sector.

Members that support a specific issue must bear administrative and other costs associated with its pursuit. Subsidy of such issues by other members should be minimized.

I. Summary report on November Meetings

1. The Executive Director reported on meetings in St. Petersburg, Helsinki, Washington D.C. and New York City he attended in November. A trip report was included in the meeting workbook.
2. Significant opportunities arose as a result of the meetings. Some of them will require follow-up by the Secretariat and RCs.

II. Northern Forum Financial Report

1. Hokkaido donated an Additional Assessment of USD 45,000, to be used for project support and operations. Yukon donated a Supplementary Contribution of USD 2,500, to be used for Public Relations efforts. Alaska has changed the disbursement of its USD 60,000 Additional Assessment to a quarterly basis, with change in reporting structure and other restrictions.

Northern Forum Steering Committee Meeting
15-17 December 1999



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,

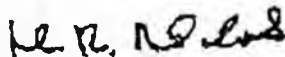
Whereas, the proposed cuts eliminate the State's only position responsible for recruiting new business and investment; and,

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 16th 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 Therrialur, 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 play in economic development.

Sincerely,


Larry D. Crawford
President & CEO

Attached: AEDC Executive Committee Resolution

- e) The Executive Director and Deputy Director would be more productive with the help of a part-time professional Executive Assistant
 - f) The goal of making the Secretariat staff more "international" in outlook and experience – and thus more representative of its members – was stressed by the Executive Director
 - g) The Secretariat asked that members be requested to bring forth names of professionals from their regions who might work in the Secretariat (as professionals or as Regional Representatives)
4. There was general agreement that the Regional Representatives are key to the NF, and that more attention must be paid to their mission and qualifications. The discussion was as follows:
- ★ a) Due to economic difficulties, Hokkaido will suspend sending a Regional Representative to the Secretariat; significant levels of support will continue from Hokkaido itself; if it is determined by the NF Board, Hokkaido will be able to consider sending another Regional Representative in future; SteerCom members thanked Hokkaido for its long-standing leadership
 - b) Alberta may be sending a Regional Representative, on a short term basis, to the Secretariat, replacing the temporary intern representative sent this autumn
 - c) The four Geographical Areas of the NF should be represented at the Secretariat; on the other hand, although it is desirable, Regional Representatives do not always need to reside in Alaska
 - d) The SteerCom members need to take a larger role in NF support activities. Sakha and Hokkaido both discussed their support through full time staff assigned to both the Secretariat and in their region. Lapland indicated that although they do not have full time staff allocated to NF activities, they spend considerable time on NF issues, both project specific and communication among members. Alaska indicated that they have no budget and no ability to undertake any NF duties. The time currently spent on work is unfunded. Alaska cannot do any more than it currently does in support of NF activities.
 - e) Rotation of Regional Representatives was discussed, but no firm recommendations were made beyond the suggestion that in order to be useful, Representatives need to spend adequate time in the Secretariat; the amount of time should be specified
 - f) Rotation of Representatives among Associate Secretariats and members was briefly discussed (for example, the Director of Sakha Associate Secretariat may be stationed in Lapland for a time)
 - g) The NF needs guidelines for sending Regional Representatives to the Secretariat; these should be developed by the Executive Director and SteerCom
 - h) Before a Regional Representative is assigned to the Secretariat, the Executive Director should communicate with the region which is sending the Representative: the skills and qualities needed in the Secretariat
 - i) Regional Representatives' work plans should be very specific; they should be designed by the sponsoring region and the Secretariat together, and should be coordinated by the Secretariat
 - j) Hosting a Regional Representative has significant financial implications, not only for the sponsoring member, but for the Secretariat as well; these include logistics (transportation in Anchorage), housing, office space, equipment and training, etc.
5. The NF Computer System and Communications
- a) Email connections have increased during the past years; only four regions do not have email at present
 - b) The use of the Internet should be emphasized, especially regarding communications among members, the Secretariat and the populations of the regions
 - c) The Executive Director outlined some of his ideas for significantly enhancing the NF's use of its web site
 - d) A long-term (5 or 10 year) communications plan for the NF should be developed, using the plan produced in the early 1990s

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to endorse full funding for the UAF system. It provides essential educational opportunities

03/24/00 22:52 FAX 907+248+6216
03/23/00 14:02 FAX 1 907 842 5892
MAR-20-2000 02:13

UAF/NAKNEK
BRISTOL BAY CAMPUS

UAF NAKNEK

09
001/001
P.02

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Name: Mary Burtress

Address: P.O. Box 947

Alaska Simon part of the University

System. AK

Alaska is a unique state, combining both
rural and "fish" communities. By funding

**Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony**

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Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

*I've learned something new in
any UAF class I've taken.
Having classes in this community
has helped me to further
my education.*

Name Betty Durand
Address P.O. Box 117
City Kings Salmon, AK Zip 99613

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

I would never be able to afford to go
to a college away from home so it's wonderful
we can take classes locally, and it's
more personable!

Classes are unique & fun.. I think we
get more of a variety in instructors!
Please continue to support rural school
universities !! Thank you.

Name Jana M. Swindells
Address PO BOX 123
City Naknek, Ak zip 99633-0123

**Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony**

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

As a student in Rural Alaska
I feel very strongly that
having a campus near home
is a great benefit. Giving rural
Alaskans the chance to better
themselves within their own
community is good for all of
Alaska. ~~more~~ We will have a more
educated, marketable population
if you continue to support the
University of Alaska.

Name Sonia Pompe
Address PO Box 257
City Naknek Zip 99633

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

The Naknek campus has offered well educated knowledgeable instructors and meaningful courses for furthering education in many different fields to all of our remote areas that are not accessible to Anchorage or Fairbanks. Personally, the many computer classes I've participated in have enhanced my own knowledge & versatility in my profession.

Name Jon Pitman
Address Bx 41
City King Salmon zip AK 99613

**Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony**

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Please continue funding for Rural University-level education. It is the lifeblood of learning in remote communities & is essential for our educational health & intellectual growth. Thank you.

Name Kristen Dora
Address 2626 Galewood St.
City Anchorage zip 99508
AK

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

As a rural resident for 18 years I have greatly benefited from the offerings through the Bristol Bay Campus. Thirteen years ago I was able to complete my teaching degree thru the Campus and am currently employed as a ~~certified~~ certified teacher. Since then this rural campus has provided courses that have helped towards recertification as well as personal interests. As a resident of Bristol Bay I strongly encourage you to fund UAF and its rural programs.

Name Glenda Egli

Address P.O. Box 188

City Natnek Alaska 99633

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

The university program touches all of us in the state of Alaska. Without an educated populace, we will not only do a disservice to the ~~base~~ entire population, we will also continue to import professionals from the lower 48. Everyone, no matter what their job or station in life, will have a need for continued education. No other agency can fill this essential service.

I personally have my master's degree but I have taken many university courses both before and after this degree. Most of these have enabled me to either make more money, teach others what I've learned or improve my life.

Please allow these fabulous + valuable programs to continue throughout our great state.

Name Mary Thea Levinson

Address P.O. Box 253

City Naknek Zip 99633

Alaska Human Resource Investment Council

550 W. 7th Ave, Ste. 1030 • Anchorage, AK 99501 • 907-269-7485 • fax: 907-269-7489
 email: ahric@gov.state.ak.us • www.gov.state.ak.us/ahrhc/ahrhc.htm

Gary Brooks
 IBEW

Commissioner Richard Cross
 Department of Education
 & Early Development

Fred Esposito
 Alaska Vocational Technical Center

Kitty Farnham (Vice Chair)
 BP Amoco - Alaska

Commissioner Ed Flanagan
 Department of Labor & Workforce
 Development

Kristen Forrester
 Mat-Su Borough School District

Duane French
 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Alice Galvin (Chair)
 Alaska Communication Systems, Inc.

JoAnn Henderson
 Southeast Regional Resource Center

Kay Hoch
 Owner, Matrix Jewelers

Linda Hulbert
 Henkel Howard & Hulbert

Willie Lewis
 Laborers' Union Local 942

Jo Ann McDowell
 Prince William Sound
 Community College

Commissioner Karen Perdue
 Department of Health & Social Services

Wendy Redman
 University of Alaska

Sarah Scanlan
 Cominco, Alaska

Donna Scott
 Tanana Chiefs Conference

Commissioner Deborah Sedwick
 Department of Community
 & Economic Development

Tim Sundry
 Teamsters' Local 959

Barbara Stullone
 Federal Express - Alaska

Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer

Colleen Ward
 Owner, Xcel

J.C. Wingfield
 Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 375

March 24, 2000

The Honorable Drue Pearce, Senate President
 The Honorable Brian Porter, Speaker of the House
 The Alaska State Legislature
 State Capitol
 Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Pearce and Representative Porter:

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Human Resource Investment Council in support of the Governor's version of the operating budget. Our organization is in the business of ensuring that Alaska workers are ready for work, and that Alaska businesses have a qualified, local workforce to help their industries thrive. Investing in quality education and healthy children is the best way to ensure a healthy economy.

The Governor introduced the Children's Budget to focus on resources to build a future workforce and healthy citizens. It begins with important and essential services, which are highlighted below:

Child Care – Child care is an essential piece of a healthy economy. People coming off of welfare cannot stay in jobs if they don't have child care assistance. The House version of the operating budget has underfunded child care assistance by \$800,000 – in real terms, this means 400 kids won't be covered by assistance anymore.

Headstart – The Governor asked for a \$2 million addition to Headstart. The State of Alaska only serves 23% of kids who are income eligible for Headstart. The national average is about 40%. The House added \$0 to the program.

Prevention – 80% of adult prisoners were abused as children. 50% don't have their high school diploma. Almost 80% had substance abuse problems. If we don't spend money on prevention, we will spend much more in the future on incarceration.

Youth Detention – The current version of the budget doesn't include any money to operate youth detention facilities that are currently under construction in Anchorage, Mat-Su and Ketchikan.

*The Honorable Drue Pearce
The Honorable Brian Porter
Page Two*

Quality Schools Initiative – An additional \$7.6 million was requested in the Governor's budget to increase student performance through tutoring, summer school, and training to improve student performance, and help students meet higher standards now in place. The House zeroed out this request.

University of Alaska – The Governor asked for \$16.9 million for the University of Alaska. States that have great economies have great educational systems. The current version of the budget fails the test of future investment.

There are many other problems with both the House and Senate versions of the operating budget. The State cannot afford to underfinance these essential services. As employers, the AHRIC feels that it is essential to invest in the services that will create a qualified local workforce to fill Alaska jobs in the future. I strongly urge you to restore funding to the Governor's requested level for these vital services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alice J. Galvin

Alice Galvin, Ed.D.
AHRIC Chair

cc: The Honorable Sean Parnell, Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Eldon Mulder, Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
The Honorable Johnny Ellis, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Ethan Berkowitz, House Minority Leader

Delta Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 987
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737
(907) 895-5068
Fax (907) 895-5141

RECEIVED

FEB 16 2000



February 11, 2000

Senator Sean Parnell
Senator John Torgerson
Senate Finance Co-Chairs
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

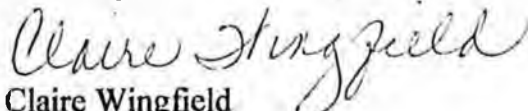
Dear Senator Parnell and Senator Torgerson,

We are writing to you in regards to closure of the two Richardson Highway maintenance stations at Trims Camp (milepost 218) and Birch Lake (milepost 307). The highway between Delta Junction and Paxson has been closed for at least five days this winter thus far. Snow conditions along with drifting have contributed to these closures as the remaining maintenance stations are overburdened with the territory they are expected to cover.

People have gotten stuck on the road in the snow. Five people in one vehicle were involved in a collision because of the road conditions. (Note the accompanying article). And many people are kept from moving around the state when the Richardson Highway is closed. This road was not closed due to unusual conditions. These are "normal" situations on this highway. Isabel Pass generally has large snowfall and winds that cause drifting on the highway. This is why we contend that the maintenance service station needs to be reopened immediately.

We understand that Senator Georgianna Lincoln is writing a supplemental appropriation that will address the issue of reopening the maintenance stations. We wholeheartedly support the appropriation. The lives of everyone that travels the Richardson Highway depends on your actions. In April the annual Arctic Man Classic will be run near Summit Lake. Thousands of snowmachiners attend this event and they will be traveling on this highway. Please make it safe for ALL of us.

Sincerely,


Claire Wingfield
President

2-3-00

Police report

Injury accident

Five people were injured in an auto accident near Mile 228 Richardson Highway at about 8:31 a.m. Wednesday. According to Alaska State Troopers, a 1991 Chevrolet pickup driven by Piotr Morozov, 49, of Delta Junction rear-ended a tractor-trailer driven by Donald L. Lucas, 42, of Wasilla. The semi was stuck in a snowdrift and was blocking the road, troopers said, and high winds and white-out conditions contributed to the accident. According to troopers, highway closure signs had been posted due to poor weather. Morozov and four adult passengers in the truck were transported to the Delta Medical Clinic for initial treatment. He, along with one of the female passengers, was then transported to Fairbanks for follow-up treatment. They are both in fair condition at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. No one in the vehicle was wearing a seat belt, troopers said. Damage to the pickup is estimated at \$6,000 while the semi sustained about \$500 in damages.

Domestic violence

Misty Nickoli, 22, was arrested Friday at about 5:40 a.m. on domestic violence charges after Fairbanks police were called to a

home on Baranof Avenue. Police said Nickoli struck another woman in the head with a pot. She was taken to Fairbanks Correctional Center.

Burglary

■ A North Pole woman came home Thursday around 11 a.m. to find a strange man in her house on Silverleaf Drive, according to a report by the Alaska State Troopers. The intruder, who was wearing a black jacket and jeans, along with a ski mask, struck the woman in the face, troopers said, and then fled. The case remains under investigation.

■ A man in the Gold Rush Estates area reported to troopers on Friday morning that someone had broken into his home and stole about \$5,000 in cash. The burglary is under investigation.

Fugitive

Police arrested Teresa Haden, 45, Thursday evening on an outstanding warrant. Haden was contacted by police in a trailer behind the Sunset Strip on the Old Richardson Highway after a report of a domestic disturbance there. A check of the National Crimes Information Computer showed a Texas warrant for Ha-

den's arrest on original charges of check fraud.

DWI

■ Troopers arrested Douglas Tobuk, 43, of Fairbanks on charges of driving while intoxicated. Tobuk was stopped at about 1:41 a.m. Friday for erratic driving on South Cushman Street. He was taken to Fairbanks Correctional Center.

■ On Friday at about 2:30 a.m., Fairbanks police arrested Timothy Estabrooks, 33, on charges of driving while intoxicated. According to police, Estabrook cut in front of another vehicle at the intersection of Cushman Street and Airport Way. He was eventually stopped at the intersection of Airport and Gillam Ways, police said. Estabrook blew a .173 on the Intoximeter, above the legal limit of .10, according to police.

Theft

Troopers received a report Thursday afternoon of a theft from a home on the Old Nenana Highway. According to troopers, the resident said sometime between Jan. 23 and Thursday someone took his snowplow from the front of his vehicle, which was parked in the driveway.

Memorandum

DATE: March 17, 2000

TO: Senator Sean Parnell

FROM: Doug Ward

Tel: (907) 225-7199

Fax: (907) 247-7201



Email: dward@akship.com

RE: Funding for International Trade, Economic Development & Tourism

Dear Senator Pearce:

We have learned that the House Finance Committee has severely cut the budget for Department of Community and Economic Development's International Trade and Market Development. The purpose of this letter is to support funding for International Trade and Market Development.

We are supporting this agency's budget because of the important work that remains to be done in diversifying and strengthening Alaska's economy. Alaska's ability to support its vital marine transportation system will depend not only on competent ship building and repair facilities but also on attracting new maritime support businesses that can provide specialized goods and services. Market Development plays a valuable role in bringing new businesses to Alaska and helping them set up shop through procurement workshops and contractor conferences.

Educating fleet operators about the capabilities of Alaska shipyards is also an important role of this department. Many Seattle based seafood harvesters and processors have yet to learn the cost benefits of having their Alaska fleets maintained and repaired in Alaska. Market Development can assist Alaska shipyards educate these businesses and attract new customers. Much of our Alaskan seafood is shipped directly to Asia aboard foreign owned freighters. International Trade can assist Alaska shipyards by informing these foreign shipping companies of our state's ability to provide routine maintenance and emergency repairs for their vessels. We also understand that Russian fishing vessels are beginning to use Seattle shipyards for maintenance. Here again, International Trade can help inform these fleet operators of Alaska's ship repair capabilities.

Establishing primary manufacturing activities like shipbuilding and repair in Alaska is a severe challenge. Commissioner Sedwick has done a good job in helping industry meet this challenge. Please, help Commissioner Sedwick continue her work by supporting the budget for International Trade and Market Development.

Respectfully,

Doug Ward
Director of Business Development

P H O N E M E S S A G E	TO	SRP	DATE	3/23	TIME	6	AM	
	FROM	RONNIE HARDY	AREA CODE				<input checked="" type="radio"/> PM	
	OF	12950 MISSION CIR DIST 10	NO.	345	EXT.	3642		
	M E S S A G E	SUPPORTS THE \$500,000 FIRE COMMUNITY						
		SCHEDULES						
		HARDY@ALASKA.NET					SIGNED	
	PHONED	<input type="checkbox"/>	CALL BACK	<input type="checkbox"/>	RETURNED CALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>
			WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	WAS IN	<input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>

Janell R. Privett
P.O. Box 775
Wrangell, Alaska 99929
907-874-2074

March 23, 2000

Testimony: Senate Finance: HB312

Senate Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to fax you testimony on HB312 funding for education in FY01, I was unable to attend the hearings on March 23rd.

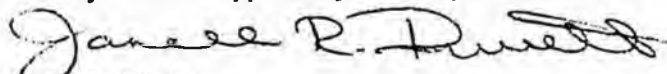
The State of Alaska is responsible under the State Constitution for the funding of public education for all of Alaska's children. Alaskan's have spoken out clearly in many surveys and public testimony in support of education as a priority for this state. Alaska's children are in my opinion our number one resource. This states investment into it's children must be consistent and dependable.

School Districts are doing an excellent job of doing more with less, my community is unprepared for the reduction in budget that you are considering. Wrangell Public Schools have been well cared for with more than 85% of our property tax going to pay for our schools, our community has worked very hard to keep our education on solid ground with our community still facing a uncertain economic future. Wrangell knows that our future depends on our children and the education that they receive will bring forward our greatest chance to survive the uncertain economic future we are facing.

I encourage you to stand by Alaska's Children by supporting SB198 Senator Wilken's bill, SB 244/ HB336 Quality Schools Grant program, SB 250/11B 301 FY 00 supplemental, SB 105 Foundation Change, pupil transportation can not be short funded, this will require districts to use instructional dollars to meet bus contract obligations, in my community our budgets only area to fund transportation will come out of direct instruction, this will then drop our instruction 70/30, removing us from compliance with the Department of Education and will jeopardize our accreditation. Funds authorized for education should be spent on education rather than used to offset state budget cuts, it is wrong and unethical to balance Alaska's budget on the backs of our children. I challenge you all to put your heads together and see what life you can create for our children, and Alaska's future.

Governor Walter Hickel, 1994: There is no vision, no hope, no future, not agenda for Alaska, if your only ideology, if your only philosophy, if your only cause is to cut the budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to fax my testimony to you,


Janell R. Privett

PLEASE SIGN IN

3/20/2000

Ken Osuna
LEWIS LEONARD
KEHL LIVE
George McW
PER. BOON-ROW
Danae Dandan-Halliday
GEORGE HANSON
Andy Heinlin
Gary McCarthy
Dick Tremaine
MIKE OPIKA
Charla Sterne
Rita Hall
Joan Pyscacki Frantevich
Bill Donahue

Chardwood, Board of Sup.



Teleconference Update Summary

TCN: 10086

Participants
Announcements
Notes
Billing Information
Final Statistics
Summary
Main Menu
Search

Summary Data

TC Date: March 20, 2000
 Time: 7:00 PM TO 7:30 PM
 Status: Announced
 Sponsor: SPAR; Dist 1 18
 Chair:
 Purpose: CON
 Contact: Dan Saddler 4652995

Moderator:
 Toll Free Number: 800 368 8772
 Dial-up Number: 907 783-2116
 Personal Number: 907 258 8772
 Testimony Allowed: Invitational
 Time Limit: 99 minutes
 Backup Material: No
 Meeting ID: none

Public Remarks:
 Internal Comments:

Agenda

Bill Number	Bill Subject
	Girdwood Constituent Meeting

LIO Sites

Chair	Name	Room
x	JUNEAU	CAP017

VTS Sites

Chair	Code	Name	Location	LIO
-------	------	------	----------	-----

Off-net Sites

Chair	Code	Name	Location	Phone
	OF1	Girdwood	Little Bears ctr	907 783-2116

Participants

Name	Type	Bill
------	------	------

Please provide a copy of the sign-in sheet to Sen Parnell + Rep. Blumke.

*Thanks,
J...*

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

As Alaskans, I am sure you will agree that we need to make an investment in our future. More precious than gold or oil are our children. However, in recent reports written by researchers, our great state earns an F for investments and contributions to education. Our university system has been so disabled due to lack of funds, that our daughter and most of her friends have left the state to attend college. Do we want to also cripple our K-12 system in this time of benchmark and exit testing? Would we rather build prisons to hold the failures we create? Let's move into the new century with a long range plan, instead of crisis planning every spring.

Name Judith Morotti
Address 791 Goldstreak
City Fairbanks Zip 99712

Taxes!
Cap or delete the permanent fund!

P H O N E M E M O	TO	Sean	DATE	3/23	TIME	10:23	AM PM
	FROM	Tonya BROWN	AREA CODE				
	OF	Fairbanks	NO.	458-0974			
			EXT.				
M E S S A G E	Support						
	Re: Child Care Assistance						
	SCHOOLS.						
	Infant Learning Programs						
	Youth Programs						
	Did not get to testify.					SIGNED	TJ
	PHONED <input type="checkbox"/>	CALL BACK <input type="checkbox"/>	RETURNED CALL <input type="checkbox"/>	WANTS TO SEE YOU <input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN <input type="checkbox"/>	WAS IN <input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT <input type="checkbox"/>

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

We need an immediate decision to fully restore funding to education in Fairbanks. This funding is to include recent cuts, money for transportation (buses), special education as required by federal law, and an increase in the Quality School's Initiative. We are faced with losing excellent school programs such as, elementary music, school nurses and counselors, transportation, middle school structure, programs to reduce drop outs and aid at-risk students, etc. These are core areas that have been mandated in the Denali Kid Care ideology to take better care of our children. You've passed legislation to require improved performance by districts, schools, teachers and students. You've set standards and provided benchmarks. Now you've pulled the rug out from under us, with out notice! Schools are often the only stable place for youngsters with dysfunctional homes. We have the highest rate of every type of disease and problems socially. Shame on you for hurting children! Education is a top priority. Businesses locate often based on how good a school system is. We can consult by the thousands via e-mail. Vote "yes" to education or I will vote "no" to you!

Name Patrice R. Lee
Address 676 Hillcrest Dr.
City Fairbanks zip 99712
AK

March 21, 2000

To: All Alaska State State Senators and Representatives

State employees work hard and deserve a pay increase just like all hard working Alaskans. They've earned it, they deserve it, and it is good for the economy. State employees do not earn their money in Alaska and leave the state to spend it, they own homes (pay mortgages), pay rent, and spend their money right here in Alaska. They are our neighbors and they volunteer in our communities. Only 1/3 of the state employees receive a merit increase. Statistics show that the private sector pay has gone up 5.5% and during this same period federal pay has increased 16.3% while the state employees have taken an 8.6% decrease. All working people deserve respect and safe working conditions. We should not jeopardize the quality of life for working Alaskans who choose to earn a living or the incentive and motivation to work would diminish and threaten economic stability. I am a hard working state employee and I've sacrificed time from my family to provide a decent life for my family and myself. Please support the funding of state employee contracts. We will lose if we continue to cut instead of looking for a long-range plan to improve the quality of life for all Alaskans. Let's work together!

Joanne Olsen
PO Box 72654
Fairbanks, Ak 99707

Joanne Olsen

If there are any questions, you may contact me at 479-6785.

March 10, 2000

Fax: 456-3346

Dear House Finance Committee:

I would like to urge you to not make any cuts to alcohol and substance abuse programs from currently being considered for the State's operation budget for FY00. Alaska has the highest rates of alcohol-related accidents, deaths and fetal alcohol birth defects in the nation. Budget reductions will be devastating to ongoing work in substance abuse treatment and prevention.

Specifically, any cuts to the current budget would impact Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc's Hunik Zoo, the Old Minto Family Recovery Camp, and the Fairbanks and Tok Subregional alcohol programs. These programs are vital to the Interior and making great progress in the field of alcohol and substance abuse treatment and prevention.

However, it's not enough. Currently, there is a three to six month waiting list for treatment programs. More prevention education is needed to reach on constantly changing population. Reductions would be a step backwards.

Thank you for consideration.

Respectively,


Judy Peter,
Fort Yukon

March 10, 2000

Fax: 456-3346

Dear House Finance Committee:

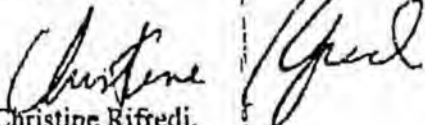
I would like to urge you to not make any cuts to alcohol and substance abuse programs from currently being considered for the State's operation budget for FY00. Alaska has the highest rates of alcohol-related accidents, deaths and fetal alcohol birth defects in the nation. Budget reductions will be devastating to ongoing work in substance abuse treatment and prevention.

Specifically, any cuts to the current budget would impact Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc's Hunik Zoo, the Old Minto Family Recovery Camp, and the Fairbanks and Tok Subregional alcohol programs. These programs are vital to the Interior and making great progress in the field of alcohol and substance abuse treatment and prevention.

However, it's not enough. Currently, there is a three to six month waiting list for treatment programs. More prevention education is needed to reach on constantly changing population. Reductions would be a step backwards.

Thank you for consideration.

Respectively,


Christine Riffredi,
Fort Yukon

FROM : ANUIK TRIBAL COUNCIL
MAR-03-00 WED 10:12 AM

PHONE NO. : 907 663 6357

Mar. 13 2000 12:14PM P4/6

FAIRBANKS LIO

FAX NO. 907 456 3346

P. 02



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
Committee on HB 312 Dated 3-8-00
Bill / Subject Committee Name

Specifically, any cuts to the current budget would impact TCC, Inc's. Hunik 200, the old minto recovery camp, and the Fairbanks, and TOK Subregional alcohol programs. These programs are vital to the Interior and making great progress in the field of alcohol and substance abuse treatment and prevention.

However, it's not enough. Currently there is a three week to six month waiting list for treatment programs.

More prevention education is needed to reach a constantly changing population. Reductions would be a step backwards.

Thank you for your consideration,

SIGNED: Alberto Maillo
Testifier

Anvik Tribal T.F.S.
Representing

P.O. Box 10 Anvik AK 99558 (907) 663-6322
Address / Phone Number

Subject:**Date:** Wed, 22 Mar 2000 16:16:55 -0900**From:** Bill Emery <bgrfwle@northstar.k12.ak.us>**To:** Fairbanks_LIO@legis.state.ak.us**To:** Senate Finance Hearing Members,

Please support full funding at the state level for public education by voting yes for House Bill 312.

We should be adding funds to education not taking funding away from important sources like transportation. Reductions in state spending like this will only cause further cuts to school related programs. Presently our School Board is currently cutting vital programs in music, nursing, counseling and other areas because many of our representatives are not in touch with the needs of students in our schools nor do they fully understand what long lasting effects the lack of funding will create.

No funds have been added to the state budget for the Quality Schools Initiative. How do you expect us to test all these students without counselor's or other available staffing and implement remedial programs for those that fail? The answer is it can't be done by depleting our resources. What about inflation? Personnel, building maintenance, construction costs and electric/heating bills keep climbing and have not been incorporated into the new budget. So, please support SB228/HB336 and HB281.

Please support these legislative bills so we can maintain quality schools in Alaska.

Sincerely yours,

William L. Emery
3789 Blessing Ave.
NorthPole, AK 99705
907-488-2825

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

Senator Wilken - was hoping to testify
but need to get kids
at the gym - 8-Ball
practical

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

DM

In Fairbanks we are facing substantial budget cuts in the FNSB schools. As we live in the richest state in the U.S., there is no reason why we shouldn't strive to have the best school system in the country. Our children are our future.

I urge you to support SB 198 & fully fund pupil transportation, along with the Governor's Quality Schools Initiative. But unfortunately, even with these proposed appropriations, the school district is still facing four million dollars in budget cuts.

We need status quo funding to match the 1998 budget. I urge you to additionally restore funding to the '99 level (70.1 million) This means an additional

3.1 million increase which could be added to HB 312 on line 18, Page 8 - Special & Supplemental support.

Name Debbie S. Miller

Address 1446 Hans Way

City Fairbanks Zip 99709

Please help fund education
as a #1 priority,
Sincerely,

Debbie Miller

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Name Vanessa Spencer
Address PO Box 750986
City Fairbanks zip 99775

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

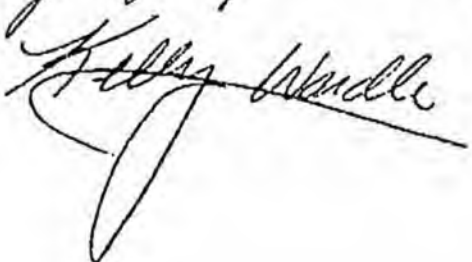
Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Good Evening Committee members,
My name is Kelly Wardle & I'm an ~~student~~^{alumn}
alumni & prospective nursing student @ UAF.
I'm here to testify tonight on behalf of my school
and the University of Alaska statewide system.
I'd like to urge you to fully fund our proposed
budget request of 16.9 million. - Not only for the benefit
of current Alaskan students like myself, but to
provide an educational future for the next generation.

Thank you for your time,


Name Kelly Wardle

Address PO Box 56678

City NORTH POLE Zip 99705

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Hello members of the committee! my name is Kai Jensen & I am a Geology student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I am here to fully support funding of the University of Alaska Fairbanks statewide budget request. As many of you know UAF is a leading research institution & one of the few land, sea & space grand schools in the nation. This means that this university is competitive with other research institutions in the Pacific Northwest. This is why I chose to come to UAF. By fully funding our request, you'll be assuring that option for other aspiring scientists... Some of which may be your children! Thank you for your time.

Name Kai Jensen

Address PO Box 83155

City Fairbanks zip 99708

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

My name is Aubrey Miner, and I am a UA scholar attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I urge you to give the full funding that President Hamilton has asked for to the UA System. It's wonderful to be able to attend a local university with such a variety of quality programs instead of having to search for these programs at expensive, out-of-state universities. We need to keep that multi-quality program attraction of the UA schools, and we need high funding support to make that happen. 16.9 million is not just an arbitrary, negotiable number that we ~~ask~~^{beg} for you to give us, it is the full amount we need to keep our current professors, expand our needed programs, and keep our university in business.

Name Aubrey Miner

Address Po Box 10427

City Fairbanks zip 99710

Sincerely,

Aubrey Miner

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Hi my name is Jack Fletcher. I would like to urge you to fully fund UAF's budget request for the next fiscal year. I was born and raised here in Fairbanks and graduated from UAF with two Associate Degrees in Fire Science in Spring of 96 & 98. I recently returned from working at McMurdo Station, Antarctica as a firefighter. I know if I hadn't had my education from UAF that I probably wouldn't have had the opportunity to go to Antarctica. So, I strongly urge you to fully fund UAF at their request of \$16.9 million, so that Alaskan children can also have the opportunities I've had... solely because of my UAF's education.

Name Jack Fletcher

Address PO, Box 10432

City Fairbanks zip 99710-0132

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Suzanna Bobinski. I work for the State of Alaska. For the Department of Motor Vehicles.

I would like the finance committee to agree to fund State Contracts. I believe it is Fair & Modest. We have worked for almost a year without a contract & have been negotiating with the state. There are numerous programs do need to be funded. Charter schools, Education, Child protection & fill vacant child protection workers positions. The state passed a law to charge youth offenders for adult crimes as adults. There needs to be implement prevention of these at Risk individual before they even think of doing crimes.

Name Suzanna Bobinski
Address 3120 Treaty St
City North Pole zip 99705

provide better or more opportunities for youth to earn their own money
Before age 14
Suzanna

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

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465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am a teacher and a parent in the FNSBSD. I am begging you to fully fund education. These children are the future of our nation. I shudder to think how much more depraved and corrupt our society will become if we do not meet the educational needs of these young citizens.

There are so many of our students for whom the school is the only safe, stable environment they have. We must give them all we can to help mold them into valuable, productive, contributing members of our society. Remember, they will be the ones in charge when we are old.

Name Becky Ryberg

Address 1084 Acorn Circle

City North Pole, Zip 99705

AK

Thank You

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

I am writing in regards to the State of Alaska's Education Budget Crisis. Due to the reduction in state funding for education, the children of Fairbanks are being denied basic educational services. Specifically, in Fairbanks, students are facing the loss of school counselors, a basic service in the 21st Century.

The number of students affected by this loss is 100%. School counselors are paramount to the safety, welfare, and education of all children. Counselors assure that learning environment of our schools is safe. Counselors teach tolerance and respect for all people; essential in our multicultural state. Counselors teach life skills; essential for the future success of all students. Counselors tend to the physical, psychological, and emotional well being of all students; all vital for the education of the whole child. Counselors are first to address the concerns of abuse, neglect, and maltreatment of children. Counselors prevent incidents of violence, the abuse of drugs & alcohol, students skipping class, suicide, and racial and gender prejudice.

When the State of Alaska fails to provide funding for schools, the State fails us all. I urge you to consider the importance of Education in the future of our state. I urge you to consider the challenges our children face in the 21st century. I demand that the State of Alaska fulfill its responsibility to fully educate our children by fully funding all educational needs of all children.

Name Robert Maxwell Wortman

Address 888 Gold Pan Rd

City Fairbanks, AK Zip 99712

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Good evening, committee members!

My name is Jillian Swope. I am a current UAF student, staff member instructor and VERY proud second-generation alumna of the University of Alaska system. I am testifying tonight to urge you to FULLY FUND the \$16.9 million budget request for our university. Whether it be our business students earning kudos from Fortune magazine, and CNN for their academic accomplishments or our second-time NCAA championship rifle team beating out every other team in the nation for top honors, UAF and the entire UA system have proven time after time we are the competitive choice for a quality education. But insuring that option for future generations of Alaskan students rests on your decisions to support us this session.

Name: Jillian Swope

Address: P.O. Box 10492

City: Fairbanks Zip: 99710

Now is the time to take a step forward and support your university. Our children—the future of this state—can expect no less. Thank you!

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
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To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

The Republican led legislature has a few goals. You want government to work more efficiently. You want to attract and develop private commercial investment. You want to use our natural resources wisely. Last year the legislature took a step in the right direction in meeting these goals. You increased the Dept of A operating budget by \$6.1 million. I urge the Senate Finance Committee to lead the legislature once again and increase the Dept of A operating budget by \$6.9 million. This investment makes Alaska stronger. This investment makes the legislature stronger by showing the foresight to develop dedicated public servants, develop an educated workforce to attract business, and develop careful resource managers. An educated citizenry - many even accept the direction the legislature will eventually take us - to a reinstatement of a state income tax and careful utilization of the Permanent Fund Earnings.

Name Marta Mueller

Address 516 Auklet

City Fairbanks zip 99709

March 23, 2000

Dear Senator Mackey,

I had the opportunity to listen to you speak on the \$25,000.00 Mackey Plan. I was very excited to hear the details and concerns expressed by Alaskans that may arise for giving out a lump sum of money. I came back to my community to convey your message only to be approached by a fellow employee who have knowledge from the type of work he does that felt it would not be a good idea. He had just read some articles in the Fairbanks Daily Newsminer regarding the influx of Russians living in Delta Junction (a small rural community that lacks jobs). One family had 16 children plus mom & dad making 18. Not to mention the so called approximately 250 other Russians also living there all on welfare programs. Now why on earth would anyone wanting to make a new life for their family would want to move to an area where jobs are scarce and fall into the welfare programs? From the way I understood your program, these people would received \$25,000.00 each and still be eligible for welfare. One family would have almost half a million dollars and they would still collect welfare benefits. How can a family who has almost a half million dollars in the bank still collect welfare? Here I am a state employee and being told I earn too much so I do not deserve a pay raise, I am ineligible for welfare assistance because I make too much yet I don't make enough to get ahead and on the other hand, we will continue to feed, clothe, and take care of people who are unwilling to help themselves. I am confused. I cannot support a program of this nature and neither can a lot of others who see the same flaw with this plan. Sorry to burst your bubble, but I would have supported this plan had it not been for this gross oversight.

Joanne Olsen

PO Box 72654

Fairbanks, Ak 99707

907-479-6785 hm 451-5186 wk

Joanne Olsen

PS How does people on welfare get away with paying cash for salvaged vehicles, fix them up, resells them for "cash only" making an enormous profit and still receive welfare? The state needs to look at the fraud taking place to avoid wasting money and prosecute to get the money back to pay for much needed programs.

I'm Joanne Olsen and I work for the Division of Motor Vehicles. Cutting the budget does nothing for Alaskans but hurt children, programs that are dependent upon state funding, working Alaskans, and families. I know you have all heard this over and over again. What will it take to make our legislators who are our voices responsible to these irresponsible actions. Continuing to cut the budget does have a domino effect on everything. Cutting funding are causing irreparable damage to Alaskans. Buildings that need repairs are being neglected and I'm afraid it will be to the point where it can't be fixed but will need to be replaced costing more money than it would have had it been maintained properly in the first place. Not fully funding education also hurts our community. People who need the education to get a better job will have to go elsewhere to get the training and education they need and deserve. Investing in our education is investing in our future where people learn to become self-sufficient. Here we are pushing for welfare to work programs, but we are not wanting to educate and train our workforce. It takes money to run our schools and universities and we all know that it is a wise investment. I don't understand why this legislator has not looked for possible revenue sources.

There has been no mention of funding public employee contracts. Public employees deserve a pay raise, they work hard, and it is very good for the economy. Why would anyone want to penalize public employees when they are working to earn a living and not taking handouts and paying their way. They work hard to provide for their families. They live here and spend their money in their communities. They volunteer and ~~their~~^{they are} our neighbors and friends. Why take away the incentive to work and the chance to better our lives and our family lives. Please support fully funding education, children programs, and public employee contracts. It is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Joanne Olsen

PO Box 72654

Fairbanks, AK 99707

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

My name is Cindy Branley & I am a 1992 graduate of UAF with a B.A. in Justice and a minor in Spanish. Currently I am the Director of the UAF Alumni Association. You have heard all of the statistics from UA President Mark Hamilton so I won't reiterate them here but please keep them in mind.

While a student at UAF I was presented with many opportunities. I took part in an exchange program to Venezuela and an internship in Probation at the Fairbanks Correctional Center. I also took courses in Procedural and Criminal Law. These experiences led me to apply to law school. My degree from UAF allowed me to be competitive in the application process and as a law student, my education provided me with the skills to be successful. One of my jobs in law school was as a legal intern dealing with Spanish speaking clients. In 1997 I graduated and clerked for Superior Court Judge Ralph Bristline for 2 years. I will take the Bar Exam this July.

I'll be honest - it is hard for me to understand why this funding increase is not automatic. The future of AK and its citizens depend on it. We need to diversify our economy. Exhibit the leadership that got you into office and support the \$16.9 million increase.

Name Cynthia R. Branley

Address 213 Skates Dr

City Fairbanks Zip 99701

I am encouraging you to fully fund the UA System. Graduating HS Alaskans are leaving in droves simply because we don't have the money to give them the quality of education they deserve. I am ^{student} an employee of the UAF Office of Admissions. I am part of the daily battle to retain our young, intelligent students. I understand we have a budget crisis. However, as a business major at UAF, the first & most important thing I learned was money can not be made without first investing it. How are we going to resolve our budget crisis if we have legislators that are afraid of investment, that don't believe in the fundamentals of ~~the~~ economics? If the budget crisis is to be resolved & if Alaska is to prosper as it should, we need to invest the money we have in places that will return our investment and more. The UA System has proven time & time again returns on your investment are at over 5% to over 10% invested. We have given you awesome returns in research at our geophysical institute. College graduates are more likely to vote, to stay out of jail, and be dedicated citizens. Are these not the type of people that will help Alaska prosper? I am asking you to recognize the basic workings of economics and fully fund the UA System. It is the only way that Alaska will diversify its economy and produce the citizens we need. As a voting Alaskan, I will go to the polls & vote only for people that understand basic economics. Thank you for your time.

**Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony**

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

My name is David Giza and I am currently pursuing a degree at the University of Alaska - Fairbanks. I am writing to support full funding for UAF so that my education, as well as other students, doesn't suffer in budget cuts. Education has no monetary value; it doesn't measure. It is priceless and irreplaceable. Please do not cut the student at UAF their education. Give the university the \$16.9 million needed to further our knowledge so that we can reinvest it into the state. Take long-term investment out of the current monetary dilemma by far.

Thank you,
David Giza

Name David Giza

Address 1500 MARKET ST.

City FAIRBANKS Zip 99709

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Dear S.F.C. Members —

① I ask that you grant full funding to Education - Primary, Elem. and High School. There is NO better way to invest in our citizens' futures, than to encourage, support and fund Teachers, Schools and agencies which interact with our young people.

② With regard to your perception of Alaskans' attitudes on use of the Permanent Fund's surplus account: Without exception, every person I spoke with prior to the special vote in Sept. 1999 stated that ~~they~~ the ballot proposition was a sham. People were not presented with real and distinct options.
Think smart! Think long term.

Name Marilyn Russell

Address 221 Well Street

City Fairbanks zip 99701

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

From: Fairbanks LIO

23 pages of written public
testimony to follow.

Kanisse

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Please restore the funding to Public Radio.
Rural listeners depend on public radio
as a vital source of local and
national information. The proposed
budget cuts in state funding and the
resulting reductions in Federal matching
funds will be the demise of some
stations, depriving many Alaskans of
their ^{only} means of receiving news and
information.

Name NIKKI NEWCOMB

Address P.O. Box 853

City Valdez Zip 49686

TO: Senate Finance Committee Members
FROM: Lynda Raymond
DATE: March 23, 2000

As a long-time teacher in the Interior region, I believe that funding for education should be increased. There are many factors in the remote village schools which need to be addressed.

One of these is adequate teaching staff of high quality. At this time, teachers are working hard to implement the State Standards in all classrooms, and teachers are helping students prepare for Exit and Benchmark tests. This requires much extra time for teachers, in inservices and on a day-to-day basis for planning units and lessons. IF education is a priority in our state--as it should be--then these teachers need the support of adequate funding of education on a broad scale. Every year that there are inadequate programs in place for the education of our children, something is lost that can never be regained. If years go by with inadequate programs becoming more prevalent, then the demise of our school system and the future of our state becomes more and more difficult to correct and improve.

Another is enough money to be able to deliver an adequate education to students in very small high schools. Small schools do without music teachers, art teachers, voc. ed teachers, etc.; and teachers, of necessity, are required to teach classes outside their area of certification. As a result, innovative ways to teach, additional materials, more expensive media are needed to adequately cover the required coursework.

Another area of need is Special Education. In some areas there is a very large proportion of students who have been medically diagnosed FAS, FAE or Attention Deficit. Many schools have a high proportion of learning disabled and speech/language disabled. Programs for all these students are difficult to maintain because, unlike large schools in the urban areas, special ed teachers are also required to teach regular classes as part of their daily schedule.

Early Childhood education is also an area of concern. Research has shown that these are the most important years and determine the course of the education of a child for the rest of his school years. During these

years, language is strengthened and the pre-reading skills need to be taught. If this does not happen, there is a very very high (98% according to the National Institute of Health) chance that the student will never learn to read functionally. And research has shown that if a student is not a fluent reader by age 10, he will never be able to handle secondary-level reading material. This, in effect, nearly always dooms a person to failure. Either they become part of the welfare system, or, worse, a very high percentage of people who are in our penal system are non-readers. (Is it not MORE expensive to give people welfare money or incarcerate a person than to adequately educate them in the first place? And which is the morally right option here?)

Another very important area is that of counseling and building administration to insure that our schools are safe. There are many social problems and substance abuse problems which manifest themselves in our schools. The role of a good administrator and counselor cannot be overestimated as they become the crucial players in the course of a school year, or, at the critical time of crisis.

The safety and on-going maintenance of buildings is also a concern. As budgets get tighter, routine maintenance is not so thorough, and safety concerns are less likely to be addressed in a timely manner.

So I am saying, STRENGTHEN education in our state. If this takes a state income tax, a sales tax, or even part of the permanent fund, then you must be strong enough and wise enough to make that decision. Someone has to make a hard decision. And then the people of Alaska need to accept the fact that something needs to be done about the education of our children soon, like NOW!

Written Public Testimony
For HB 312/HB 313
Operating Budget Testimony

Fax to Senate Finance Co-Chairs at
465-6592 or 465-4779

To: Senate Finance Committee Members

2001 Budget

Date: March 23, 2000

(In an effort to hear from as many as possible tonight we are encouraging you to submit written comments to be faxed by the LIO. Please briefly state your comments regarding the operating budget.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Name Lynda Raymond

Address PO Box 686

City Tok Zip AK

Legislative Testimony
3-23-00
Parole Supervision Pilot Project

By
Brad Angasan
VPSO Program Manager

INTRODUCTION

My name is Brad Angasan, I am the Village Public Safety Officer Program Manager for the Bristol Bay Native Association.

In addition to administrating the State VPSO grant, BBNA operates the VPSO Parole Supervision Pilot Project (to which will be referred to as Parole Project).

OBJECTIVE AND IMPLEMENTATION

The objective of the Parole Project is to provide on-site, parole monitoring to felony probationers within the local village, at low operating cost. This is done by empowering the Village Public Safety Officer with the probation officer authority to enforce conditions of release. This authority is often at the direction of the district probation officer, who might be restricted from traveling to the village due to weather, lack of transportation, or inconvenient time of day. District probation officers are generally located within hub communities such as Dillingham. This is fine for general contact that does not require immediate response from a corrections official. However, in the case that immediate, emergency response is required by a probation officer, there is no more effective and efficient way to provide this service. On top of the general monitoring of the probationer, our officers are identified as resources for probationers, advocacy agencies, and community alike. Improved vendor accountability contributes to a reduction in repeated criminal activity not only by the probationer, but the community as a whole. Additionally VPSO-probation officer's now have the capability and training to provide UA type drug testing for marijuana, narcotics, and other illicit drugs, alcohol consumption, and probationer detainment. Of which this type of detailed training would not normally have been provided.

CONCLUSION

The success of this program should not be measured by the amount of probationers that are re-incarcerated or by the amount of individual contacts that result in violations of conditions of release. But by the amount of felony probationers that we are able to assimilate back to their respected communities from which they come. The Parole Project is demonstrating its success by the continuous development of community well being, community assimilation, officers' presence, and probationer accountability.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the VPSO Parole Supervision Pilot Project.

Brad T Angasan
BBNA
VPSO Program Manager

Dillingham, AK, 99576

Copy of Testimony

**Testimonial for DOC Grant
Cpl. Jason Creasey
Aleknagik**

Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Jason Creasey. I am a Village Public Safety Officer in Aleknagik, a small rural community in Southwest Alaska.

I currently have 7 probationers living in my community and 14 from the neighboring community of Dillingham that on occasion come to my village for recreation among other activities.

This grant has been very successful. And cutting it would only make our jobs harder because the funding to take care of probationers is a time consuming job. VPSO's are the lowest paid law enforcement entity and we do a lot more than trooper's or other agencies. We live in the village and respond to all types of calls at all hours of the night and early morning. We are on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week all year round.

The tasks I perform are contacting probationers in the village, perform Portable Breath Tests, UA's, welfare checks, have regular meetings with probationers, transport probationers if in violation, helping other agencies find the probationer and not to mention all the reports and paperwork needed to keep track of who is where and also regular reports on individual probationers to the District Probation officer and BBNA.

On several different occasions I've had to apprehend probationers in early morning hours for violating their probation. This grant makes it possible to do so and gives you the equipment that you need to make your job that much more professional and manageable.

I've also assisted the District Probation Officer in apprehending probationers that are in violation that do not comply with their conditions.

I think this grant has been more than successful in my village with a 40% decrease in crime since 1998.

I have thought long and hard about this grant and without the support from Department of Corrections and other agencies I for one can say that not getting the funding is going to limit my time with probationers and the crime will increase.

Please consider what this grant does for Rural Alaska communities. I for one would like to see it carry on.

Thank you for your time,

Cpl. J. Creasey
Cpl. J. Creasey
Aleknagik VPSO

ALEKNAGIK, AK. 99576

Copy of Testimony

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I currently work at the Salvation Army in Cordova. Our client load has increased so that we are referring some clients to the family ^(CFRC) resource center and sound alternatives. Both of these agency need additional funding in order to meet the needs of this community.

Name Lois Ann Backus

Address P.O. Box 1542

City Cordova, AK zip 99574

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For HB 312/HB 313
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I'm writing in support of full funding for public broadcasting, especially public radio. KDLG is not a luxury for the people of the Bristol Bay region. This was brought home to us recently, during a horrendous windstorm in the Dillingham area -- which is not so unusual for this time of year -- but what was unusual was that KDLG was ~~knocked~~ knocked off the air for several hours. People all over town scrambled to figure out whether the kids should go to school, whether or not they should go to work, and what community events would or would not take place.

It was an uncommonly ~~is~~ isolating experience--and I think really showed us what an essential service KDLG provides to the people of our region. We've had fund raising dinners, fundraising drives--we've even gone door-to-door for donations for those of us who can't seem to live without NPR. So we do support our own--but we also need continued state support for a service that provides us communication with each other and a window on the world.

Name CRISTY WILKER TILDEN

Address P.O. Box 786

City Dillingham Zip 99576

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OUR AGENCY LOST \$ 7000.00 IN FUNDING
LAST YEAR WHICH MEANT A REDUCTION
OF STAFF + RESOURCES. THIS OCCURRED
AT A TIME WHEN THE CASELOAD IS
CONSISTENTLY INCREASING IN AN AREA
THAT ALREADY HAS VERY LIMITED SOCIAL
SERVICES AVAILABLE. IF WE DO NOT
HAVE THE MEANS TO BREAK THE CYCLE
OF VIOLENCE IN THIS GENERATION
IT WILL BE COSTLY TO FUTURE
GENERATIONS BOTH IN DOLLARS + IN
THE INCREASED NUMBER OF DYSFUNCTIONAL
FAMILIES.

Name SAMARIA ROSS

Address P.O. BOX 1095

City CORDOVA Zip 99574
AK.

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For HB 312/HB 313
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Please do not cut funding to
Council on Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assaults, as people's
lives depend upon this. This
is a costly mistake, not to fund
this council that would result
in escalating expense for the criminal
justice system. You are sentencing
women & children to their deaths.
- Carolyn Poesler

Name Carolyn Poesler - akmediascope@hotmail.com

Address bx 594

City COV AK zip 99574