

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

2285

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES,

2001 - 2002

William Bowler
 P.O. Box 327
 Glennallen, Alaska 99588
 dmbowler@alaska.net.

April 21, 2002

To . Mindy Rowland
 Secretary
 Senate Finance Committee
 Alaska Legislature

Subject - SB 289 RE: EMS/^{Grant}Funding

I've heard this past week that reducing state EMS grant funding is being considered. To the Copper River EMS participate, it will have an immediate effect on EMT training programs, and eventually there will be a lack of certified EMTs much of the time for such a vast area.

President Bush's comment on emergency services being our first line of response to terrorism in this area of investment. I've been an EMT + ambulance driver with Copper River EMS since September 1981. Skill levels, commitment, equipment, and transport capacity have never been better. Much of this has been through the constant recruiting and training at the Basic + ACLS levels.

I trust, the legislative committees to consider the importance of a constant influx of new EMTs to a program as ours. Price? Suggested cuts would amount to \$12,000.00/year for the Copper Basin

Thank you
 Bill Bowler

FAX FROM:

TANANA TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 77130
Tanana, Alaska 99777
(907) 366-7170 phone
(907) 366-7195 facsimile

To: Senate Finance Dept: _____

Fax #: (907) 465-2187 Date: 4-19-02

Re: _____ CC: _____

Pages including cover sheet: _____

- Urgent
- For Review
- Please Comment
- Please Reply
- Please Recycle

• Comments:

THIS FAX WAS SENT TO YOU BY:

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|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie M. Roberts
Executive Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Carla K. Bonney
Health Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer R. Johnson
Administrative Assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Peters-Zuray
Environmental Specialist | <input type="checkbox"/> Gerald D. Nicholia
Realty Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Swenson-Nicholia
Accountant / Bookkeeper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thelma Starr
Tribal Court Clerk | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Michael L. Andon
Housing Director |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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Public Testimony at Senate Finance

April 17-18, 2002

In Juneau and at Legislative Information Offices (LIO) statewide.

This is the only opportunity for the public to testify on the Senate version of the operating budget.

Teleconference sites for each time period are listed alphabetically. This does not reflect order in which testimony will be taken. If you have any questions please contact the Juneau LIO at (907) 465-4648.

Emails from the public may be sent to Senate Finance's secretary: mindy_rowland@legis.state.ak.us
Faxes may be sent to Senate Finance at (907) 465-2187

Public Hearing Schedule:

People wishing to testify may want to arrive early in the event testimony from previous LIOs concludes before the scheduled time. Meetings will conclude at the stated time or when all those present have made their comments.

*Testimony will be taken until the time indicated unless there are no testifiers remaining, in which case the testimony will be terminated. Testifiers are advised to be on site at least 30 minutes before the end of the allotted time.

The Legislative Information Office in the communities listed below:

Wednesday, April 17, 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.
 Formally adopt committee substitute work draft
 4:00 - 4:45 Dillingham, Homer, Seward, Valdez
 4:45 - 5:30 Cordova, Kenai, Kodiak, Bethel
 5:30 - 6:15 Glennallen, Petersburg, Sitka
 6:15 - 7:00 Break
 7:00 - 9:00 Anchorage

Thursday, April 18, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 9:00 - 10:00 Mat-su, Delta Junction, Ketchikan, Tok
 10:00 - 11:00 Wrangell, Nome, Kotzebue, Barrow

Thursday, April 18, 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.
 4:00 - 5:15 Offnet Sites 888-263-1555 (only time for statewide call-in that is not scheduled through the LIO office - line may be busy)
 5:15 - 6:30 Fairbanks
 6:30 - 7:15 Break
 7:15 - 9:00 Juneau

Read Statements / 2000 Budget Homepage / QME / Office of the Governor / State of Alaska / Contact Us / Webmaster

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T-262

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From-TANANA CHIEFS CONF

Apr-18-2002 03:08pm

of 1

TANANATRIBALCOUNCIL

ID:9073667195

APR 19 '02

8:46 No.001 P.02

Subj: **Public Testimony on Senate Budget Cuts**
Date: 4/18/02 5:00:51 PM Alaskan Daylight Time
From: JULIEMROBERTS55
To: mindyrowland@legis.state.ak.us

I am very concerned about the many different cuts that the Senate is currently contemplating. The one's that I am most concerned with is the out to the most neediest of all, and that is with the permanent dividend to the low income. Take the most from the most neediest! Especially when many cannot even defend themselves. How cruel can the Legislature be, when there is so many other places that can be cut. The other concern I have is with the cuts to DOT - how can we expand and bring the cost of living down an also how will we be able to increase our opportunities with tourism and access to natural resources. This approach is so backwards!! Lets go forward.

Thank you in advance for your considerations

Julie Roberts
Executive Director
Tanana Tribal Council
Tanana, Alaska 99777

119 N. Grejman St. Suite 101
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: 907-452-4440
Fax: 907-452-3340

**Fairbanks Legislative
Information Office**

Fax

To: Senate Finance Committee **From:** Fran/Fairbanks LIO

Fax: 465-2187 **Date:** April 18, 2002

Phone: 465-4935 **Pages:** ~~20~~ ~~18~~ 19

Re: Written Testimony, Budget Hearings **CC:**

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Comments: Written Testimony for the SFIN teleconference on 04/18/02. The originals will be pouched to the SFIN committee.

**Senate Finance Committee Testimony
Senior Support for Full Funding of the
Human Services Community Matching Grant Program**

My name is Denise Daniello and I reside at 3844 Ullrbahn Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709. I am the executive director of the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center. I, along with 115 registered Alaskan voters, the majority of whom are Fairbanks area seniors, support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program as demonstrated by this petition. The HSCMG provides critical funding for the Meals on Wheels service administered by the North Star Council on Aging.

Meals on Wheels is a vital community service for elderly people. It not only provides hot nutritious food to feed the body, but a caring delivery person who nourishes the soul. For some elderly people, especially those who live outside the city limits, the Meals on Wheels driver may be the only human contact a person will have all day.

The North Star Council on Aging provides the Meals on Wheels service for 143 homebound seniors of the Fairbanks area targeting at-risk elders who are frail, disabled and/or financially in need. Of those individuals, 94% (134 persons) suffer from crippling arthritis, heart disease, Parkinson's disease or Alzheimer's, 66% (95 persons) are low-income earning less than \$1,000 per month, and 63% (90 persons) are categorized as both medically impaired and financially in need. Meals on Wheels enhances the quality of life by providing healthy food and social contact for these individuals.

Meals on Wheels is cost-effective. The home-delivered meal helps the elderly stay healthy and remain in their own homes, where they want to be, as opposed to being placed in a nursing facility for illnesses related to malnutrition. The daily room and board rate at the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital is \$826, as compared to \$9.48 for a MOW meal.

The demand for Meals on Wheels is increasing. Today, we have 21 elderly people on a waitlist for Meals on Wheels. We need more funding for senior services, not less.

Last year, the North Star Council on Aging prepared 41,500 meals, traveled 36,400 miles delivering meals, and used our \$50,000 HSCMG grant to leverage almost \$300,000 in outside funds. The HSCMG is a sound community investment we support. Thank you.

We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Eller	Stella	2178 FAGAN	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Stella Eller
2	Lockhart	Kowe	P.O. BOX 74408	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Kowe Lockhart
3	ERICKLOOK	MARTHA	1620 WASHINGTON ST	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Martha Ericklook
4	Wetbridge	Frances	116207 Washington	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Frances Wetbridge
5	KIMMER	PALE	2451 ALSTON	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Edith Kimmer
6	M. K... ..	Mary	1770 Prudhomme	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	M. K...
7	B. Fisher	Blennie	1512 Palomares	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Blennie Fisher
8	Stevens	Cornie	1005 Oak Grove Ln	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Cornie Stevens
9	Wason	Viola	312 W. 2nd	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Viola Wason
10	AKPIK	HENREY	107 COLLEGE	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Helen Akpiik
11	Grant	Bill & Lyla	410. Merrill	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Lyla Grant
12	Braun	Bill & Joan	428 E. Main	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Joan Braun
13	Johnson	Lessie	525 Craig Ave	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Lessie Johnson
14	Robertson	Joseph	125 3rd Ave	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Joseph Robertson
15	Tremblay	Travis	P.O. Box 7010	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Travis Tremblay
16	Selamans	Louise	3206 1st	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Louise Selamans
17	BELEW	CARLIE	321 4th	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Carlisle Belew
18	Biddle	Charles	370 3rd Ave	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Charles Biddle
19							
20	BEHNET	PEARL	333 3RD AVE	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Pearl Behnet

We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	ABEL	GLEN	405-BARANOV AVE	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701-3200	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	W. Jiff	Ernest N	P.O. Box 80989	"	"	99708	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	Ogden	Krista	3845 Potter Rd.	Fairbanks	AK	99709	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Nottingham	Juanita	PO Box 80946	Fairbanks	AK	99708	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	Nottingham	Charles	PO Box 80946	Fairbanks	AK	99708	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	Katherine	Peter	575 Leticia Ave Dr.	FBKS	AK	99712	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	Turner	George	1235 Fitzgerald	FBKS	AK	99712	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	TURNER	Joseph	702 TURNER CT	"	"	"	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	TURNER	LAVON	702 TURNER CT	"	"	"	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	BISOTTI	LISA	300 HEALAND Ed # 11	"	"	"	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	Goodrich	BETTY	3259 Repp Rd	FAIRBANKS	AK	99705	<i>[Signature]</i>
12	BURNS	MARLENE	P.O. Box 55048	FAIRBANKS	AK	99705	<i>[Signature]</i>
13	LOSL	JUNE	1921 ENDICOTT AVE	FAIRBANKS	AK	99705	<i>[Signature]</i>
14	TURPENDING	ALYD	P.O. Box 58217	FAIRBANKS	AK	99711	<i>[Signature]</i>
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We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	SOLE	LARRY	Box R 3066	FBKS	AK	99708	Larry Cole
2	TERMINAL	JAMES	700 Fairbanks St #138	FBKS	AK	99708	James Terminal
3	NEWMAN	Florence	PO Box 7001	FBKS	AK	99708	Florence Newman
4	Grigyan	Susie	1304-24th Ave E-2	Fbks	AK	99701	Susie Grigyan
5	SMITH	CHARLES	P.O. Box 71306	FBKS	AK	99707	Charles Smith
6	METZ	Alice	PO Box 84475	Fbks	AK	99708	Alice Metz
7	METZ	Duane	PO Box 84475	FBKS	AK	99708	Duane Metz
8	Hensley	Ruby B.	2121 Turner St	Fbx	AK	99701	Ruby B Hensley
9	LAWLESS	Sue	PO Box 71734	FBKS	AK	99707	Sue Lawless
10	BURTNESS	Catherine	1418 Turner St.	FBKS	AK	99701	C Burtness
11	WISE	George	1523 Gillan W	Fbx	AK	99701	George Wise
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We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Cynthia Frank	Frank	330 3RD GT.	FBKS	AK	99701	Cynthia Frank
2			330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99701	Barbara Peterson
3	Kristin Clark		330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99701	
4	Barbara Peterson		330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99701	
5	Barbara Peterson		330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99701	Barbara Peterson
6	Deanne Flynn		330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99701	Deanne Flynn
7	Maureen Holland		Northwood	FBKS	AK	99701	Maureen Holland
8	Maureen Holland		Northwood	FBKS	AK	99701	
9	Marietta Kathleen	Kathleen	Northwood	FBKS	AK	99701	Kathleen Marietta
10	Harriet Edstrom		Northwood Bldg	FBKS	AK	99701	
11	Marietta Kathleen		MLH	FBKS	AK	99701	
12	Joseph Liaco	Liaco	MLH	FBKS	AK	99701	Joseph Liaco
13	WALLACE	LOLU	MLH	FBKS	AK	99701	WALLACE LOLU
14	TODD	BETTE	1922 Kenai Pike	FBKS	AK	99701	TODD BETTE
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We, who have signed our names below, support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund the Meals on Wheels service provided by the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, AK.

Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Tuxgood	DOROTHY	PO Box 60203	FAIRBANKS	AK	99706	Dorothy Tuxgood
2	GEIGER	SILVIA	3246 ADAMS	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Silvia Geiger
3	HUNTER	DIANE	455 AVENUE ^{3rd} apt 323	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Diane Hunter
4	HARDY	WENDY	1805 JACE ST	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Wendy Hardy
5	SAVOYE	JOE	1420 MOORE ST	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Joe Savoye
6	Doniello	Denise	3844 Ullrich Rd	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Denise Doniello
7	Bachler	JUDY	PO Box 71538	FAIRBANKS	AK	99707	Judy Bachler
8	Thompson	WILSON	PO Box 60596	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Wilson Thompson
9	Walters	HEATHER	PO Box 72646	FAIRBANKS	AK	99707	Heather Walters
10	Macrosimo	INSENA	105 3rd Ave	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Insema Macrosimo
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We, who have signed our names below, support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund the Meals on Wheels service provided by the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, AK.

Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Pandell	Hazel	303 W. Cedarwood	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Hazel Pandell
2	Fischer	Melissa	P.O. Box 34032	FAIRBANKS	AK	99707	Melissa Fischer
3	Curry	Julia	310 W. Cedarwood	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Julia Curry
4	Lundquist	Guinevere	1187 Kodjak St.	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Guinevere Lundquist
5	Thompson	Barbara	1187 Kodjak St.	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Barbara Thompson
6	Thompson	Barbara	3303 1st Ave	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Barbara Thompson
7	Syvogrovd	Mary	1515 2nd Ave	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Mary Syvogrovd
8	Chappel	Gordon	11456 Tupper	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Gordon K. Chappel
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We, who have signed our names below, support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund the Meals on Wheels service provided by the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, AK.

Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

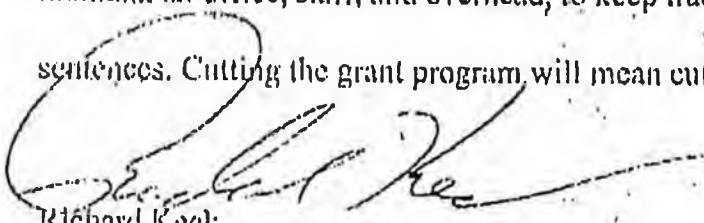
PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	MERCER	DORIS	1790 OLD PIONEER	FBK	AK	99709	Doris C. Mercer
2	Isabel	Belinas	1416 Noble	FBKS	AK	99701	Isabel Belinas
3	HOWARD	GRACE	330 - 3rd Ave	FBKS	AK	99701	Grace Howard
4	Hale	Sally	862 Spruce Dr	FBKS	AK	99712	Sally Hale
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I oppose the proposed 25% cut to the Human Services Community Matching Grant. As a Board member of the North Star Youth Court, which has received funding from this source, I want to say:

1. The NSYC reduces the burden on the juvenile justice system and the court system by prosecuting juvenile misdemeanors. The NSYC allows teenagers to perform a needed service for the community and to learn about the law and the effects of juvenile crime.
2. The NSYC delivers a message to youthful offenders that crime is wrong. Without the NSYC, young offenders either suffer no consequences or else undergo full formal court proceedings with state attorneys, probation officers, a superior court judge, etc.
3. The NSYC, as all the other youth courts in Alaska, depends on grants such as the Human Services Community block grants. Grant money to the NSYC produces a lot of bang for the buck, since much of our work is done by volunteers. But we have to maintain an office, staff, and overhead, to keep track of court cases and follow up on sentences. Cutting the grant program will mean cutting the services NSYC provides.



Richard Keek
1506 3rd Ave.
Fairbanks AK 99701
(907) 451-2954



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 Committee on TRANSPORTATION Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 4/16TUE/2002

FIRE ABOARD ALASKA FERRY COLUMBIA
 DAMAGE, REPAIRS, LOSS OF SERVICE.

WHO IS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT?

SIGNED:

Rep. KOVALIK

Testifier

Representing

Box 72563, Fair 99101

Address / Phone Number

479-4728

PROFESSIONAL MARINER

Journal of the Maritime Industry

Contents

Issue #63
April/May 2002

Faulty electrical connection,

loose bolt suspected in ferry fire

A faulty connection or a loose bolt falling into a switchboard probably caused the fire aboard the ferry *Columbia*, the National Transportation Safety Board has concluded.

The fire on the flagship of the Alaska Marine Highway System on June 6, 2000, (PM #50) broke out in the engine control room's main switchboard. The NTSB said that the probable cause was "arcing, most likely due to a faulty connection or a conductive object."

Mechanical vibrations and thermal cycling can gradually loosen electrical connections, and although crewmembers had used an infrared thermographic inspection program to search for faulty connections, they had never used it to

inspect the switchboard's internal connections. A faulty connection could have developed and remained undetected for a considerable period of time.

A loose bolt may also have caused the arcing that led to the fire. A bolt fused to two washers was found in the switchboard panel compartment.

A report by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory also concluded that the cause of the fire was most likely a faulty connection or the loose bolt. Analysis of the bolt and its location in the switchboard indicate that it was the probable cause of the initial arcing.

The incident occurred as the 418-foot passenger/car ferry

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MARITIME CASUALTIES

was underway in the Chatham Strait, about 30 miles southwest of Juneau, en route to Sitka. The ship has the capacity for 971 passengers; at the time of the accident there were 434 passengers and 63 crew aboard. Three passengers were evacuated by Coast Guard helicopter for medical conditions that existed before the fire, while the remaining passengers and a stowaway were transferred to another AMHS ferry, *Taku*, after the two vessels rendezvoused.

According to the NTSB, the transfer of the passengers to *Taku* "was executed in a timely and effective manner and was well coordinated with shoreside management." The NTSB also noted that the passenger and crew muster was well coordinated. There were no injuries or deaths as a result of the accident, but the cost of repair to the ship is estimated to be \$2 million.

Once the passenger transfer was completed, *Taku* towed *Columbia* away from Admiralty Island so that it would not run aground. Shortly thereafter, two tugs, *Banner* and *Arctic*, arrived on the scene. *Banner* towed *Columbia* to the Auke Bay Terminal.

The manufacturer of *Columbia's* switchboard recommended that an inspection be performed, at minimum, every year or during vessel overhauls. The technical manual states that operators should "physically check the tightness of all electrical connections and parts" and "ascertain that no tools or extraneous materials are afloat." But according to the chief engineer's best recollection, the last switchboard inspection had been performed in 1995, but he was not certain whether it was even done then. Maintenance records showed that none of the connections had been cleaned or tightened during the five-year period preceding the accident.

During the winter lay-up, Alaska Ship and Drydock workers had made some modifications to the switchboard. The Coast Guard approved the modifications to the electrical drawings, and inspected and approved the work.

On three occasions, shipyard electricians entered the enclosure to work on the switchboard. On the first occasion, an AMHS port engineer was present to assure that the work was properly done. On the subsequent two occasions, no crewmember or AMHS representative was present to inspect the work while it was in progress or when it was completed.

The NTSB recommended the AMHS conduct annual switchboard inspections; verify outside contractors' work; develop comprehensive pre-fire plans including procedures for engine-room fires, and provide a backup communications system between the bridge and engine room.

John Snyder

Please explain if I understand this correctly:

At least three layers of management or at least two alternate crews had not done their job for five years — and the ferry system is asking for more money?

What discipline was meted out?

Did they dock the pay of the guy who mops out the boiler room?

FROM : ALASKA PTA EveryChild OneVoice FAX NO. : 1907222401

Apr. 18 2002 08:36AM P1

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Suillon Appellot (Sutton)
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Dawn Wenger (Elmendorf AFB)
2nd VP, Membership
Low Tabin (Nome)
3rd VP, Legislation
Carol Orta (Anchorage)
4th VP, Programs
Don Parsons (Elmendorf AFB)
Secretary
Robyn Cassidy (Kodiak)
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Region 1 Vice President
Vikita Knight (Fairbanks)
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Kim Stahl (Ketchikan)
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Mat/Su Council President

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Bylaws
Peggy Brown (Anchorage)
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Pat Blakeley (Anchorage)
Convention Chair
Carol Orta (Anchorage)
A to Education
Suillon Appellot (Sutton)
Technology
Rein Webber (Pt. Richardson)
Ways & Means
DeLene Thornton (Juneau)
Parent Involvement/Education
Paula Pawlowski (Anchorage)
Past President
Dawn Cross (Office Manager)

Office Phone: 907-273-9348
Fax: 907-222-2401
Email: ak_office@pta.org
Webster: <http://www.akpta.org>

PO Box 201406
Anchorage, AK 99520-1406

Alaska
PTA

everychild.onevoice.

April 18, 2002

To members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The annual state PTA convention is happening today in Anchorage concurrently with this opportunity to testify. Thus, many of us are unable to personally testify at our local LIOs. On behalf of the 13,000 strong membership of the Alaska State PTA, we STRONGLY urge you to fund education at the \$190 per student level for FY 03. Increased education funding is consistently one of our most important priorities as we witness the erosion of quality education for our students due to ongoing inflation and other increased costs.

Members of PTA units throughout the state can testify to the fact that we are being called upon more and more to raise funds locally to help meet basic educational needs within our schools. Each year we witness the loss of essential programs that motivate our children to learn and succeed. We are losing the competitive edge in attracting excellent teachers and administrators to come to Alaska. This is happening at a time when we have established higher standards and greater expectations for our students.

We understand the need to solve the state fiscal gap, but not at the expense of your mandated duty to maintain a strong school system statewide. Quality education for Alaska's children must be the #1 priority. Please vote to increase state education funding.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
 Committee on State Operating Budget Committee Name Dated April 18, 2002
Bill / Subject

see attached statements from myself and
 my wife, Marsha Knobel

SIGNED: Ronald L. Smith
 Testifier
myself
 Representing
P.O. Box 80272, Fairbanks 479-4644
 Address / Phone Number
3635 Rusco Creek Rd.

To: All members of the Alaska Legislature

From: Ronald L. Smith
P.O. Box 80272
Fairbanks, AK 99708
3635 Rosie Creek Rd.
frrls@mail.edu
479 4644

Re: Current status of proposed state operating budget

I am submitting my opinions by FAX because there will be many others who will wish to call in and time will be limited for everyone to register their opinions. I am responding to the general tone of the legislative deliberations so far this session and, more specifically, to the comments made by State Commissioners as reported in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner Wednesday April 17, Section B, pages 1-2.

To say that I am upset and really fed up with the Republican majority-led slashing of the State's operating budgets for the past four or five years would be a massive understatement. It appears that the Republican majority consists primarily of a group of mean-spirited, self-serving reactionaries. Overall, they appear to wish we lived in a third-world country free from the burden of paying for the amenities of civilization. Certainly, we appear to be rapidly moving toward third-world status based on the cuts that appear to be coming at the end of the legislative session. I bet most third-world countries that are interested in attracting tourists have restaurant inspection programs. Inspections are as much a matter of public safety as is appropriate levels of law enforcement. How can anyone honestly tout Alaska as a tourist destination when the State doesn't even inspect its own restaurants? If the restaurant inspection goes away I'm thinking seriously about paying for a large advertisement in the New York Times informing their readers that Alaska doesn't care enough about the safety of tourists to continue restaurant inspections. It is more important that each Alaskan receive a lot of free money, not pay state income taxes or state sales taxes than it is to protect the health of visitors and residents. That should play well in the lever 48!

We don't have appropriate law enforcement either, thanks to cuts to the State of Alaska operating budget made by previous wrong-headed legislators. Now, according to the News Miner, we can look forward to losing four more State Troopers from the interior. Maybe the State Legislators should have their houses broken into, as we did several years ago, and have no trooper ever show up to get our story directly. Maybe the Legislators should have a party at their homes, have someone drive by, put five bullet holes in a guest's car and have overworked, out-of-sorts troopers show up and be rude, arrogant and belligerent to the **VICTIMS** of the crime rather than the perpetrators. This actually happened to me and my friends. We need **more** and **better** law enforcement in Alaska, especially the interior, not less. Further cuts to the Division of Public Safety are **UNACCEPTABLE**.

What is the sense of closing Alaska State Parks? The tourism industry is crying for help and you people want to stop restaurant inspections and close State Parks! Don't bother maintaining state roads either. That way, tourists can destroy their cars hitting chuck holes, tell all their friends and relatives back home and, consequently, tourism will take a real nose dive. Cutting the restaurant inspection program and closing the state parks is **UNACCEPTABLE**. The only logically consistent thing I've heard so far is cutting the \$2 million to promote tourism. If the state isn't going to insure their safety and enjoyment of Alaska, don't get them up here in the first place.

How about promoting or assisting a forest products industry in the interior? How better to stifle that industry than by cutting back on the Forestry Division, the agency that develops and administers timber sales? Cutting the Division of Forestry is

UNACCEPTABLE. Of course, the stock answer from conservative legislators is that there is so much waste in these State Agencies. In my opinion, the most wasteful aspect of the entire State Government is the State Legislature. Here is an idea for an unfunded mandate that would save the state \$37 million. Quit funding the State Legislature! Legislators shouldn't get a salary, per diem or travel expenses. You can all serve for gratis...like a number of programs or activities you have passed into State Law but for which you provided no funds.

I spent 31 years teaching and doing research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The University system is one of the significant money-makers for the state of Alaska while providing a tremendously valuable set of educational services. Not fully funding the University system is shortsighted and costs the state millions of dollars in lost income and economic development. If the legislature were really compelled to cut waste it would direct the UA system to eliminate satellite campuses in rural communities; the cost per credit hour out there is astronomical. What? Not politically expedient to talk about whacking rural communities? Where is your courage; don't you really want to cut the waste? Cutting the UA system budget (by flat funding) is **UNACCEPTABLE.**

All the wrangling in the legislature over the exact type of **inadequate** tax to impose on the citizens of the state has really been tiring. Inadequate because it won't raise enough money to cover the presumed shortfall. Of course, every legislator hears from the most vociferous constituents, all of whom want to pay nothing or next to nothing for all the services they claim they don't really get. There are a lot of us who are ready to pay for the services one would expect to receive while living in a civilized society. I looked at the budget worksheet provided in a recent update letter by Rep. John Davies. I didn't respond then but I am now. I think the PFD should be cut in half, making available revenues of about \$500 million. I think there should be a statewide sales tax of at least 2% and a statewide income tax of at least 2% of the federal tax. Objections about those fat cats who pay no federal income tax getting away without paying state income tax? Levee the state tax as a proportion of the gross adjusted income (1040, page 2, top line) instead of the actual federal tax paid. We need to start thinking out of the box here! These measures would almost completely cover the presumed shortfall. I think there will be a huge outcry from a minority of people. Those people are always free to move to another state...where their tax burden will be much higher than Alaska's with these new measures in place. Their places will be taken by others willing to live in the last frontier, pay their share and have some of the evidences of civilization.

It occurs to me that most of what I've heard from the last five or more legislatures is their desire to promote economic development in the state of Alaska. It also occurs to me that, with the single exception of oil exploration and development, the legislature seems to be behaving in a way to accomplish exactly the opposite. Who would want to move to a state where restaurants aren't inspected, state parks are closed, the streets and roads are not maintained, homes and businesses are unsafe and unprotected, the tourism industry is hamstrung, the forestry products industry is hamstrung, sustained fisheries and hunting opportunities are hamstrung by cuts to ADF&G...Does this sound like an inviting picture? I don't think so. What good is all that free raoney (PFD check) if you feel someone could walk into your home (or stop your car) and take it and no public safety officers would **EVER** show up?

Finding solutions to our state's problems requires real leadership. Leadership sometimes requires leaders to make agonizing decisions that aren't going to be popular with some of their constituents but which are necessary for the good of all. Finding a long-term budget solution is one of those cases. Putting off or ignoring a long-term solution is **UNACCEPTABLE.**

DATE: April 18, 2002
 TO: Alaska State Legislators
 FROM: Marsha Knobel
 SUBJECT: Budget Cuts

P.O. Box 80272
 Fairbanks, AK 99708
 479-4644

Marsha Knobel

What the heck is wrong with you people?! Wednesday's Daily News-Miner reports that you are cutting state trooper positions, Fish and Wildlife employees, closing state parks, cutting road maintenance, and eliminating food inspection services. This in addition to leaving UAF high and dry. Have you totally lost your minds?

For one thing, I don't believe we have this billion dollar deficit (see Dennot Cole's column enclosed); or at least the state has money to cover a deficit if you would just use it. To better outline my opinions, here's what I think:

1. **DO NOT CUT STATE TROOPER POSITIONS, especially in the Interior.** We have been short the necessary trooper coverage for several years as the population here has grown. My husband has written in his letter to you about the house theft we suffered four summers ago. Our front door was kicked in, over \$1,000 in property was stolen, (including jewelry belonging to visiting relatives), and no trooper ever responded. The over-worked officer who did get the case finally had no time to properly investigate. My husband even had to buy back his own camera from the pawn shop where we tracked it down--pawned there by a red-headed woman with tattoos all over her arms! There used to be a burglary-suppression unit here but that had to be done away with years ago when staffing was cut. I won't even describe the drive-by shooting at our home. My husband mentioned that too. I do know, what I have to do now is get a Carry and Conceal Permit. I've been shooting guns for 55 years, feel very comfortable with one, and it looks like I'll have to take steps to protect myself and our property since you--the political leaders we count on--don't seem to think law enforcement is important.

2. **DO NOT CUT RESTAURANT INSPECTION FUNDING.** Have you ever had salmonella food poisoning? Believe me, it's not pretty. I contracted that a few years ago from a local restaurant that purchased bad eggs. True, a food inspector might not have been able to determine the eggs were tainted but at least produce sellers and restaurant owners should know that some kind of quality control is in place. It's crazy for Alaska to tout tourism as one of their main economic sources and then entice visitors to come here and eat in uninspected restaurants! And what about us locals who want to patronize our city and borough restaurants? We should have the confidence that these businesses are clean and held to high standards.

3. **DO NOT CUT UNIVERSITY FUNDING.** This just goes on and on--the cutting and lack of acknowledgment of education's vital place. I've written to you before about this. I guess there must be thousands of Alaskans telling you not to fund the university system with one more illogic because the voices of us who support funding are not being heard.

4. **DO NOT CUT FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION.** This is a lot like trooper cuts. How can the biggest state in the union, and one of the last places on earth to still have real space with real wildlife, not take care of its responsibilities?

5. **DO NOT CLOSE INTERIOR STATE PARKS.** There goes the tourist market again. How can you possibly think anyone wants to come here when they can't camp in or visit a state park? And, what about those of us who have lived here over 30 years like me and want to enjoy the outdoors. So much for touring around our own state.

Maybe I'm just too simple-minded about this, but it seems obvious where the money is to fund these essentials. I suggest any of all of the following:

1. **CUT THE PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND.** You're probably all shaking in your boots to even think about that because a wailing and moaning will echo throughout the state. Hey! This free money thing is obscene and embarrassing. I was raised on a farm in Nebraska and my

Continued on page 20

TRANSACTION REPORT

APR-19-2002 FRI 07:09 AM

FOR: SENATE_FINANCE_SECRETARY 907 465 2187

RECEIVE

DATE	START	SENDER	PAGES	TIME	NOTE	M#
APR-19	07:01 AM	9074563346	19	8'20"	COM. E-10	

Fund's earnings make 'billion

IT WAS GEORGE ORWELL, who wrote about the "magical property of names."

"Nearly all human beings feel that a thing becomes different if you call it by a different name," Orwell wrote.

In this regard, whenever you hear a reference to the state "\$1 billion deficit," it's not exactly the right name for Alaska's financial condition.

We need a new budget vocabulary. There is no \$1 billion state deficit because there is not a \$1 billion gap between all revenues and all expenditures.

This is not to say that our political leaders have misrepresented the great downfall in state income that has occurred with the decline of Prudhoe Bay oil production. The decline in direct oil income is undeniably true.

It's just that largely out of force of political habit, we haven't included as income the huge gains in recent years in the

value of stocks held by the permanent fund. It is unrealistic to expect those gains to continue forever, but Alaska's fund has benefited greatly from the bull market.

The names we use to describe the state's financial situation influence our perceptions. They can also influence our opinions about whether our state can afford such things as public television, for example.

Whatever one may believe about what Alaskans and our elected officials should do about state spending, it would be best to first check our addition and subtraction.

If financial analysts from other states were asked to check Alaska's balance sheet, I can't imagine they would agree with the assumptions that have led to what has become in our political and journalistic shorthand, a \$1 billion deficit.

The bean counters would look at the earnings from the

Dermot Cole



state's largest investment account, which are expected to total \$2 billion this year. They would soon grasp the concept that \$999 million of the money is to be paid out in dividends to Alaskans and \$287 million is likely to be deposited back in the fund to help protect the buying power of the principal.

But they would have a hard time accepting the logic that the other \$700 million in income doesn't belong in the final tally. They would want to know why some of that money can't be used to help finance the government.

For guidance they might be directed to the state revenue forecast, which states: "Perma-

'dollar deficit' a misnomer

nent fund income may be legally appropriated in the same manner as unrestricted revenue, but the established practice has been to treat Permanent Fund net income as if it were restricted."

That practice grew out of the time when direct oil income paid all the bills for state government in Alaska. But that time has passed because oil production at Prudhoe Bay is half of what it was a decade ago and prices are down.

Even if prices were to rise sharply, the drop in production has been so great that nothing will bring back the era when oil money financed everything.

In this new era, legislators are beginning to look at revising the "established practice" because our options are limited.

"There's now general agreement between the House and Senate on some use of Permanent Fund earnings, but the House is still resisting taxes.

That could change," former Fairbanks legislator Mike Strandnor wrote in the latest edition of his newsletter, Alaska Legislative Digest: An Inside View of Alaska Policy.

In planning state budgets, Alaskans have focused almost entirely for 20 years on the price of oil.

While oil income has been on the decline for many years, investment income has been on the rise.

Alaskans still watch the price of oil as if our financial future depended on it, but more and more it is the people's account known as the Permanent Fund that makes up our state's financial foundation.

The action of OPEC is no longer as important as it once was to Alaska, but the action in the stock market, where half of the permanent fund is invested, has become far more critical to Alaska's future.

A RECENT LEGAL OPINION by the law firm of

Morrison & Foerster, requested by the trustees of the permanent fund board, dealt with several important questions.

The legal opinion, which has the concurrence of the attorney general, stated unequivocally that the definition of "principal" includes all money required to be deposited under the constitution, plus additional appropriations by the Legislature. The Alaska Constitution mandates that the principal of the permanent fund can not be spent, but must be invested in ways that produce income.

The constitution further mandates that the permanent fund board is to manage its assets to generate income for distribution as the Legislature directs.

In our vocabulary the earnings ought to be counted as income, a name change that would help frame the budget debate in a more accurate manner.

Dermot Cole is a News-Miner columnist. He can be reached at colc@newsminer.com or at 459-7630.

Subject: Budget Deliberations

Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002 17:21:51 -0800

From: "Virginia L. Damron" <vld@mosquionet.com>

To: <Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us>

I am unable to attend the Senate teleconference tonight but do want to reiterate the things I addressed in letters to Senators Wilken and Kelly.

I continually hear about the end of the Budget Reserve Fund and very little addressing the earnings of the permanent fund above inflation proofing and permanent fund dividends. I can not hope to understand all of the workings of the budget process but I do know that for the richest state in the union we seem to have become parsimonious. I am not suggesting that there is not reason for some clear and definitive work to be done to manage our assets however, the present course of cutting restaurant inspections, public safety, Health and Social Service grants and the like are short sighted and will in the end cost us far more than is presently spent to fund those things. Not funding the University system at the level necessary to equip our young people to be effective, useful citizens and to not provide the best quality education we can, will result in our greatest assets leaving and rarely returning. We need to quit looking for how to cut the budget and look at how to use what we have in the most effective way to allow our economy to grow. Even the most dedicated budget cutters cannot possibly believe that removing the constraints and productive elements of our budget will develop a place where we want to live let alone invite new industries or tourists. I don't want to lose my permanent fund or pay taxes but realistically I know that I cannot continue to expect others to pay for my services. I and many like me elected you to do the hard work of keeping Alaska the greatest place in the world to live. Please don't take the easy road because it is expedient. I plead with both parties and both houses to re-evaluate the strategy now being proposed and seek answers in current revenue streams, precise cuts to redundancy, and enhancement of revenues as necessary. Thank you for considering alternatives. Virginia L. Damron, 427 Shannon Drive, Fairbanks, 99701, Phone (907)451-8478.

Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism in Alaska

Alcohol is the most significant contributing factor to crime in Alaska. Alcohol is also the number one public health issue facing Alaska. Excessive drinking is associated with child abuse, domestic violence, and low educational achievement in our state. The FY2003 budget for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse BRU proposes \$8.3 million GF to address problems related to alcohol abuse and alcoholism.

Alaska leads the nation in alcohol abuse. Statistics show that eighty percent of all crimes are committed by individuals under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

--Ted Stevens
U.S. Senator

Alaska ranks first among all states in alcohol mortality. The prevalence of alcohol dependence and alcohol abuse in Alaska is almost twice the national average.

Nationwide, Alaska is the 5th in the nation for severity of alcohol-related problems, but ranks 32nd for treatment services provided per capita.

Enough alcohol was sold in Alaska in FY99 to add up to 516 drinks for every man, woman and child.

What does alcohol abuse and alcoholism cost our state?

Alcoholism is epidemic in Alaska. Historically and currently, the abuse of alcohol is pervasive within our communities and families. Putting a price tag on the impacts of alcohol abuse and alcoholism is extremely difficult. According to a study recently completed by McDowell Group, Inc. for the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the cost of alcohol and other drug dependency on the Alaska economy was estimated to be \$614 million during 1999. Alcohol abuse costs accounted for \$453 million, or 74% of that total. Cost by category includes:

- \$319 million from productivity losses
- \$146 million from criminal justice and protective services
- \$123 million from health care
- \$21 million from traffic crashes
- \$4 million from public assistance

Alcohol Treatment Waitlists

The waiting lists for alcohol treatment recently identified in "Waiting in Line for Treatment" show an average of 302 people in seven Alaskan communities have signed up for treatment in a program that has no space available for them. This includes waiting lists of: 56 for women's or women with children programs, 197 needing adult residential treatment, 4 for youth programs, and 44 needing adult outpatient treatment.

For each type of service offered, the number of days people remain on the waiting list is different. Women waiting for treatment in a program that accepts women and children wait the longest, averaging 107 days. People who sign up to receive general or long-term residential care also tend to wait longer than average (81 and 87 days, respectively). Those waiting for women-only programs average 45 days and those waiting for dual diagnosis residential care wait an average of 43 days.

Elimination of the waiting lists is a good first step, but it would not allow the State to provide treatment to everyone who needs it and who would accept if it were immediately available.

Does treatment work?

Alcoholism is a chronic, progressive, disease. It is treatable. Many people relapse several times before achieving long-term sobriety. But a

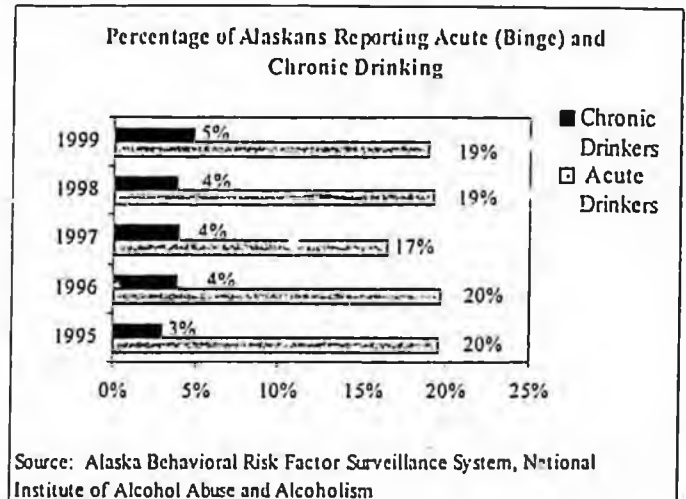
recent study examining the effectiveness of publicly funded treatment programs in Alaska found that 56 percent of outpatient clients and 42 percent of residential clients abstained from alcohol for one year after treatment. The study found a strong association between abstinence and participation in follow-up care and peer support groups such as alcoholics anonymous.

The study also found that, among participants:

- Arrests and motor vehicle accidents decreased;
- Full-time employment increased from 30 percent to 45 percent;
- Unemployment rates dropped from 45 percent to 24 percent;
- Visits to hospital emergency rooms declined.

An indication of the pervasiveness of alcohol abuse is the percentage of Alaskans who report acute (binge) and chronic drinking. In 1999, 19% of Alaskan adults reported binge drinking compared with 15% nationwide.

Alcohol consumption rates illustrate the extent of alcohol-related problems. Alaska has the second highest rate of alcohol consumption in the nation, behind Wisconsin.



What should be done?

1. Increase availability of substance abuse treatment for adults by increasing the number of beds at existing residential facilities for both short term and long term care as well as increasing the availability of dual diagnosis treatment for those individuals with both a substance abuse and a mental health diagnosis. (\$471.8 GF, \$1442.6 GF/MH);
2. Increase treatment in rural Alaska by placing approximately 18 additional professionals trained in mental health and substance abuse counseling in rural communities; providing a minimum level of funding for small community outpatient treatment programs and increasing the funding for transitional housing for substance abusers leaving out-of-town treatment programs (\$1,062.0 GF; \$1,117.7 GF/MH; \$300.0 MHTAAR);
3. Restore the successful Alcohol Safety Action Program to provide more substance abuse screening and monitoring of court-ordered treatment, including drunk drivers (\$470.0 GF);
4. Maintain existing funding for Mental Health Trust programs for Women and Children alcohol programs by replacing MHTAAR funding which is transitioned to GF/MH (\$300.0 GF/MH, -\$300.0 MHTAAR);
5. There are additional alcohol treatment, inhalant abuse prevention and suicide prevention increments that are part of the Children's Health Initiative as well as a fund change from Federal to GF for existing Detox and Dual Diagnosis treatment in Anchorage and annualization costs included in the department's Maintain Services analysis.



CITY OF KENAI

"Oil Capital of Alaska"

210 FIDALGO AVE., SUITE 200 KENAI, ALASKA 99611-7794
TELEPHONE 907-283-7535
FAX 907-283-3014



April 18, 2002

Senate Finance Committee
State of Alaska
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: **STATE BUDGET CUTS AFFECTING THE CITY OF KENAI**

At their regularly scheduled meeting of April 17, 2002, the Kenai City Council discussed their concerns in regard to state budget cuts that will affect the City of Kenai as well as its outlying areas. We have listed those concerns with a brief explanation below:

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation/Captain Cook State Recreational Area

Forcing the closure of the Captain Cook State Park will impact our 7,000 city residents, Nikiski area residents, and residents of other outlying areas of Kenai in two ways:

1. Loss of services offered by our local businesses used for repairs, food, fishing tackle, gifts, etc. of visitors who travel to the City of Kenai and north to the Park. Our businesses depend on summer tourism and many of their clientele come to Kenai as a destination and want to enjoy what the Kenai community has to offer and the camping, beach walks, fishing, boating, swimming, canoeing, hiking, etc. that is offered at the Park.

2. Those same business owners will lose again, along with our residents and residents of the Nikiski area and other surrounding communities, by eliminating their safe and supervised backdoor playground. The forced elimination of supervision, outhouse availability, and fire pits will increase the risk of public health and safety.

Road Maintenance

Road maintenance conditions, year around, are failing and in particular, the Kenai Spur Highway from Kenai to Pickle Hill outside of Soldotna. This stretch of highway receives heavy use every day, all day. It is not just the main road into Kenai directly from Soldotna and Anchorage, but the **only** direct road. This road receives pedestrian, bicycle, personal vehicle, heavy equipment, and tractor-trailer use. It is imperative this road be kept in good traveling condition -- and filling and refilling potholes just is not adequate.

Elimination of Food Health Inspections

Failure of the State to fund oversight and inspection of restaurants, grocery stores, school kitchens, day care centers, tattoo/body piercing parlors, public pools and accommodations will endanger everyone's life who goes to school, eats, swims, wades, and breathes. Additionally, this failure will directly jeopardize millions of federal dollars that pay for school and child/adult

Senate Finance Committee
April 18, 2002
Page 2

care meals. Is it the Legislature's intention to cut even more dollars our school districts depend on to care for our state's children and adult care meals?

Is it the Legislature's intention to force local municipalities to take over inspection responsibilities? If the local municipality does not have the funds available to take on this function, is it the Legislature's intention to turn its back on its citizens, visitors, and itself and endanger all our lives?

Elimination of State Troopers

The Legislature's failure to fund the third year of the negotiated labor contract with the State Troopers and court officers will require cutting three troopers, one court services officer, and one support staff from the Kenai Peninsula, reducing 24-hour coverage in some of our areas. Is this not one more failure by the Legislature to protect its citizens' lives?

The State's failure to protect the Peninsula will create significant impacts to the City of Kenai, not because it would be required, but because we would be morally obligated. Some of those impacts would include:

- Assisting State Parks, Fish & Wildlife, Fish & Game;
- Responding to injury boating accidents (guide and personal use) on the lower twelve miles of the Kenai River;
- Responding to search and rescue incidents on the lower twelve miles of the Kenai River;
- Responding to life-threatening incidents outside of the city, which in turn will put our enforcement officers in life-threatening jeopardy;
- Responding to more and more tasks outside our city limits, pulling our resources away from incidents in the city.

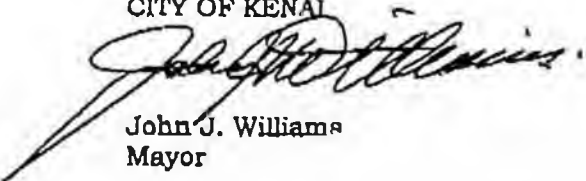
Because the State is refusing to fund its own agencies, it forces the responsibility on the local municipalities who **DO NOT** have the means and abilities to assume those responsibilities.

We fully realize the opportunity for testimony has passed, however we still want to address these issues to everyone of you as members of the Senate Finance Committee.

On behalf of the Kenai City Council, Administration and the citizens of our community, and those of the surrounding area, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

CITY OF KENAI



John J. Williams
Mayor

JJW/clf

cc: Kenai Peninsula Legislators



P.O. Box 787 • Mile 4.4 Talkeetna Spur Road • Talkeetna, AK 99676 (ph) (907)733-2273 • (fax) (907)733-1735 • schc@alaska.net

Testimony – Senate Budget Hearings
April 18, 2002

My name is Susan Mason-Bouterse. I am the Executive Director of Sunshine Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center located in Talkeetna, AK. We provide comprehensive primary care and enabling services to residents of the Upper Susitna Valley. These services include primary care, mental health, substance abuse screening, family advocacy, care coordination, home health nursing, dental care, and outreach to families with young infants. We are a safety net provider, providing services to people regardless of ability to pay through utilization of a sliding scale fee.

We have been in operation since 1986 as a small non-profit organization, governed by a community board of directors. This past year, we served approximately 2,000 different individuals, and provided over 6,000 encounter visits with patients. We provide a heavily used after hours emergency service and work very closely with area EMS when needing to transport patients to the nearest ER located in Palmer, approximately 90 minutes away (on a good day!)

The Assistance To Community Health Facilities grant program within the Division of Public Health, has in the past, been our only funding source, other than patient revenues and a small amount of United Way funding. Had we not had this funding, we would have been forced to close our doors, leaving residents of the Upper Susitna Valley extremely under-served. Currently, we are receiving federal community health center funding, but we receive an ACHF grant to help support the salary of our Medical Director. This State funding serves as a cost share to the federal program. Eliminating this grant could result for us in reduced federal funding, which could impact our ability to provide needed services in this rural part of the state.

As a member of the Board of the AK Primary Care Association, I am also testifying on behalf of rural clinics that are not receiving federal CHC funding but are relying on ACHF grant funds to survive. The proposed cuts will devastate these rural clinics and could (and probably will) result in rural clinic closures across the state.

Other proposed cuts to the DHSS budget will cause significant hardships. For example, the Early Infant Learning Program will result in cuts to programs that address prevention. These are programs that can save the state money in the future, not to mention saving incredible hardships for families. Proposed cuts to mental health and substance abuse



"A United Way Participating Agency"

programs will result in severely minimized services, resulting in greater end-run costs, financial, personal, and community.

I understand and appreciate the Legislature's dilemma and challenge in needing to reduce costs and develop a manageable budget for the coming year. However, health care does not need to be on the chopping block! Health care costs are rising. Small businesses and working individuals are struggling to keep up insurance premiums. Currently, the **only** State funding dedicated to primary care is \$315,000. I urge the Senate **NOT** to reduce that amount and not to reduce already minimal funding for other health care and behavioral health care services.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to express these concerns. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate

Committee on Finance Committee Name

Dill / Subject

Dated 4/17/02

I believe that the rising cost of doing business is beyond our control, but that doesn't reduce our responsibility to ensure basic needs in the community are met. Under-funding essential services, particularly education and human services will have cascading effects that could take years to turn around, if at all. People who choose to live here will begin to second-guess their decision to live and raise a family here.

We can not cut our way out of this issue. Rather, we need a fixed plan. I personally am struggling financially to make ends meet, but when asked to choose between a healthy community & some sort of income tax, I would certainly choose the latter!

SIGNED,

Mike Conelton

Testifier

Self

Representing

Box 61214 Fairbanks AK 99706

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Budget Finance
 Committee on Senate budget Committee Name Dated 4-18-02
Bill / Subject

To: Sen. Green of Senate Finance.
 Thank you for asking for clarification regarding my comments on short-funding foster care. A zero increase effectively short-funds this program by diminishing the Department's ability to recruit and retain foster families. The need is growing; there is an anticipated increase in the caseload of children needing foster care; flat funding the foster care base rate is short funding. Thank you for faxing the numbers and for fully funding the bottom project; please help us recruit and retain the essential services of foster families by funding the requested base rate increase.
 Please consider an income tax and use of the earnings reserve to fund these critical state services.

SIGNED: Taber S. Richbaum
 Testifier Taber S. Richbaum

Arctic Alliance for People
 Representing

P.O. Box 438, Ester AK 99725 907 452 8118
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Budget Committee Name
 Dated 4-18-02
 Bill / Subject

Cuts in the Alcohol + Drug Abuse budget will cost Alaska much more in the long run. Cuts will reduce Federal matching dollars

Cuts will mean that the system to deal with DWI drivers (ASAP) will be reduced or cut, meaning ~~more~~ a greater burden on the court system.

Cuts mean more people will go to jail - jail is more expensive than treatment.

Cuts mean more people will go to emergency rooms, ERs are more expensive than treatment.

Cuts will mean more impact on DFYS - a system that is also looking at budget cuts. Who is going to protect our children? If they can not get protection at DFYS and other services like foster care, Family Preservation and a reduced State Trooper force, who will protect children exposed to real danger?

Please think about the future of Alaska's children. If the systems that we provide to help people turn their lives around fail - what will our next-generation of adults look like?

What will be the quality of life in Alaska? Who will stay to make important decisions?

* Also - PLEASE SUPPORT THE HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT *

Testifier Annelle Finbush

Representing Fairbanks Native Association

Address / Phone Number 201 1st Ave, Ste 200, Fbks 99701
(907) 452-1648 x223



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on: Operating Budget Committee Name Dated 4/18/02
Bill / Subject

Please support full funding for the University of Alaska system.

The UA system not only produces Ph.D's, Masters Degrees, Bachelors Degrees and Associate Degrees. The UA system produces citizens for our state. Economic Development, an enlightened citizenry and a stronger state are all positive effects of a well-funded university system.

Please preserve the momentum of the UA System by fully funding the \$16.9 million request of our university.

SIGNED: Devil N. Hardbrook Joseph HARDENBROOK
 Testifier

University of Alaska
 Representing

P.O. Box 750362 Fairbanks AK 99775 907-455-4828
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Education / Department of Education Dated 4/18/02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

I would like to ask you to fully fund the university system. The university provides valuable, marketable skills to thousands of graduates every year. Graduates, whether they receive an associate's, bachelor's, or master's are less likely to experience unemployment, less likely to be crime victims, and more likely to be successful in their careers. It seems to me that at this point in our history, we should invest in something that will better serve the state's long-term interests. A more educated workforce.

It was reported on CNN a few weeks ago that Alaska is one of five states that has a public university system that is self-sufficient for its own residents. Self-sufficient means that the people there need a marketable education to get it. If we are self-sufficient, then we are not dependent on federal dollars. Many states are dependent on federal dollars to keep their universities open. People would be excited if the university could be self-sufficient. Fully funding the university is perhaps one of the most important steps to take in creating a healthy Alaska economy.

SIGNED:

Testifier

Representing

1000 W. 12th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99515 / (907) 465-5011

Address / Phone Number

April 18, 2002

Alaska State Legislature Senators:

RE: SB 340 Permanent Fund Dividend "HOLD HARMLESS"
PROVISION REPEAL

I strongly oppose SB 340, that directly affects the Alaska Native population served by the Community Services Department of the Fairbanks Native Association. The membership of Fairbanks Native Association serves the Native population of 5000 residing in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The Community Services Department clientele depends on the permanent fund for winter clothing, their children's school supplies and other essential needs not provided by other financial resources. Also, the permanent fund allows families to purchase eyeglasses and medical supplies not provided by the health care system. Again, on behalf the Community Services clientele (approximately 677 clients) and the Native community, I strongly oppose SB 340. Thank you. Sincerely, Freda M. Williams, Director, Community Services Department, phone (907) 452-5225, fax (907) 452-6355



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SFIN

Committee on

Budget

Committee Name

Dated

4/18/02

III / Subject

I think too many cuts may be happening to all kinds of organizations, and that can hurt us all... especially our education. Alaska is one state that is supporting a lot of states with oil, etc... This is a lot of alcohol and drug abuse that is already visible, that leads to jails, hospitals, DFGs, Sheriff's + other laws, there's talking about cutting ^{the} ~~divisions~~ ^{services} ~~that~~ ^{have} ~~been~~ ^a ~~battle~~ ^{for} ~~years~~, ~~then~~ ^{five} ~~been~~ ^{involved} with all these mentioned above, ~~from~~ ~~these~~ ~~we~~ ~~have~~ ~~to~~ ~~fly~~ ~~into~~ ~~the~~ ~~city~~ ~~to~~ ~~go~~ ~~to~~ ~~treatment~~ ~~centers~~, ~~we~~ ~~may~~ ~~save~~ ~~some~~ ~~services~~ + maybe it would be easier if we all had something in our village communities. I am supporting drug and alcohol abuse centers.

SIGNED:

Arvid J. Anderson
Testifier

W.C. Hill
Representing

P.O. Box 71048, Fairbanks, AK 99707
Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on: Budget Committee Name Dated 4/18/02
Bill / Subject

Public Safety, Education, and Public Health indicators are what people and businesses look at when they are considering moving to a state or a community. Maintaining a safety net is essential and deserves our support.

I am willing to contribute through a tax - my preference would be an income tax that could be taken out prior to federal taxes, or a combination of income/sales tax (which would require additional administrative staff). I would like to know that more Alaskan residents who work in our state and contribute nothing, pay their share.

Please ensure that there is a long term plan to address the constitutionally mandated areas of public safety, public health, and education.

SIGNED

JENNIFER G. SCHMIDT
 Testifier JENNIFER G. SCHMIDT

Representing Self
1093 Steeple Creek Road
400 Bay #2944, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
 Address / Phone Number 907-457-2312



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Budget Committee Name
 (Bill/Subject) Dated 4/18/02

The School Board in your community has been working proactively to help all students achieve their potential. Our proposed budget maintains class size, retains our summer school, and also includes school meals program to address benchmark concerns, and helps prepare principals to deal with anticipated retirements. There are several items for our school district that can only be addressed if we receive additional funding from the Legislature.

SIGNED:

Jennifer Schmidt

Testifier

ESB Board of Education Member

Representing

1095 Stone Creek Road

PO Box 82944, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Address / Phone Number 457-2312



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance

Committee on State Operating Budget Dated 4.18.02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

Senator Austerman asked for suggestions on how to increase funds for the operating budget. There are many ideas worth considering:

- increasing taxes on oil
- capping the permanent fund
- using the permanent fund reserve fund
- instituting an income tax
- instituting ~~state~~ or increasing "sin" taxes
- statewide sales taxes

— and probably more.

Will they be popular? Probably not. But that should not be how you make the decision. The options are there, use them.

SIGNED:

Cheryl Keepers

Testifier

self

Representing

Box 74898, Fairbanks, AK 99707

Address / Phone Number

907-459-1287 (w)



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Chair
 Committee on Operating Budget Committee Name Dated 4/17/02
Bill / Subject

As an adult board member of the WBYC
 since May 2000 and a social work intern with
 the organization beginning Sept 1999 - May 2000
 I have been given the opportunity to observe &
 participate in a program that serves this
 community with a dual purpose. The money
 from the human services grant has enabled this
 program to provide our youth in the Fairbanks
 community an opportunity to serve as mentors
 to their ~~peer~~ peers by working as youth
 attorneys, judges, & mediators to help alleviate the
 →

SIGNED:

Jennifer Assens
Testifier

Norm Stulljohn Court
Representing

125 8th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701
Address / Phone Number

workload of the juvenile youth facility probation officers which in return cuts down costs for the division of juvenile justice. Our recidivism rate of 8% is an accomplishment the youth volunteers are proud of & could have been only attained w/ the support of the human services grant.

The second function our youth serve the community is the opportunity that youth court provides for youth ages 12-18 years old. They learn valuable skills as attorneys & mediators that will benefit our community for generations.

Thank you for your time

Janet Asher



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
Committee Name
 Committee on Proposed Budget for 2003 Dated 4-18-02
Bill / Subject

The proposed cut to the budget will force us to close our
 62 bed residential program at Old Minto Family Recovery Camp.
 This program is the only treatment center for families in
 this state. This program serves 125-150 clients yearly. Six
 positions, people who are Fairbanks residents, will be
 eliminated. Closing this program means that 125-150
 clients will not receive treatment. Our substance abuse
 prevention program, which is the Hunt Zoo Newsletter
 This Newsletter ^{which} has a circulation of 10,500 over the
 entire State will be gone from the shore. This newsletter
 focused on substance abuse prevention.

SIGNED: Margaret Wilson
Testifier

Theresa Chute Conference
Representing

548 Agula Fairbanks AK 99712 - 457-7198
Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
Committee Name
Committee on _____ Dated 4-18-02

Bill / Subject

Please fully fund the University of Alaska's
board of Regents budget request.
Our University is the future of Alaska.
During financial downturn, the best
thing we can do is invest in our
Universities.

SIGNED:

Michael Everett

Testifier

Representing

1540 N. Backer

Address / Phone Number

P.O. Box 81213

Fairbanks, AK

99708



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE Comm.
 Committee on: UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA Committee Name Dated 18 APR 02
Bill / Subject BUDGET

"THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA IS THE BEST
 IF NOT THE ONLY INSTITUTION WITHIN OUR STATE
 TO IDENTIFY ^{AND DEVELOP} NEW REVENUE SOURCES, ECONOMIC
 OPPORTUNITIES, AND FUTURE ASSETS."

UA ALSO TRAINS AND EDUCATES ^{OUR FUTURE} ~~OF CHANGING~~
 AND LEADERS, EDUCATORS, CRAFTSMAN AND TECHNICIANS
 TO DO THIS THE UNIVERSITY MUST BE FINANCIAL
 FULLY TO ALLOW ~~FOR A LEVEL~~ THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE
 STATE HAS WITNESSED IN THE PAST 3 YEARS.

THE FLAT FUNDING OF UA WILL HAVE A
 DEVASTATING EFFECT AND A LONG TERM ^{IMPACT} ~~EFFECT~~
 ON OUR STATE AND IT'S FUTURE - FUND THE \$16.9 MILLION

SIGNED: JOHN C. POOLE
 Testifier

UAF TRAVEL VOUCHER COMMISSION
 Representing

325 SOWY OWL LANE FAIRBANKS AK 99712
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the financial
 Committee on: budget Committee Name Dated 4.18.02
Bill / Subject

Something that has been missing from this debate has been the question of... assuming we get through this budget crisis, what happens next year?

I suggest opening up a debate regarding the elimination of money while re-examining the values of indigenous cultures that successfully prospered long before capitalism entered and took over.

A culture of greed is destined to consume itself greedily.

Thank you for consideration in this matter.

As a final suggestion... refer to utopianow.cjb.net. It costs nothing & is selling nothing... except freedom for ALL.

SIGNED: David Robles
 Testifier
to myself
 Representing
488.5203 nlm@jgs.net
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 Committee Name
 Committee on BUDGET Dated 4-18-02
 Bill / Subject

In 1979 I ENROLLED AT VIRGINIA TECH. IN BLACKSBURG, VA. IT
 WAS MY FIRST EXPERIENCE THAT I WAS NOTHING MORE THAN
 A STUDENT SECURITY NUMBER. IN JANUARY OF 1980 I BEGAN AN
 INTERNSHIP AT ONE OF THE COMPANIES WAS SIGNIFICANT; PROFESSORS KNOW
 HOW TO TEACH NEW THINGS AND THE QUALITY OF THE EDUCATION
 PROVIDED WAS, IN MY OPINION, MUCH BETTER.

HOWEVER, I AM CONCERNED WITH THE LEGISLATURE'S APPARENT
 OPINION OVER DECIDING TO CUT FUNDING FOR THE UNIVERSITY. THE
 DECISION IS A SIMPLE ONE. DO IT NOT ONLY IS THE UA SYSTEM
 ONE OF THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN ALASKA, IT'S A GOOD INVESTMENT
 FOR EVERYBODY BUT IN TO UA, THERE IS GENERALIZED EDUCATION
 SHOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY FOR EVERYONE. EDUCATION IS KEY
 TO EVERYONE'S FUTURE. BY REDUCING THE FUNDING OF THE
 UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, THE ENTIRE STATE SUFFERS.

SIGNED:

H.J. DERIZ

Testifier

Representing

1155 HESS AVENUE, FAIRBANKS 99709 | 456-5953
Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on: HB 403 - op budget Committee Name Dated 041802
Bill / Subject

As of 041802 The budget is not done. It does not reflect needed investment in our state's future. The UofA needs to be fully funded to fill these goals:

- keep pace with technology developments to make sure graduates are technology savvy.
- attract and retain Alaska high school graduates
- train and educate employees for a changing, diversifying job market.
- develop a plan to move Alaska out of solely a resource based economy.

Fight for our Alaska. Fight for UofA.

Sing forth her glory and fame,

With a spirit bold, fight for the blue and gold.

AMEND THE BUDGET. FUND THE UofA.

SIGNED: MARIA MUELLER. Maria Mueller
Testifier

UAF Student
Representing

516 Auklet Place Fairbanks 99709
Address / Phone Number

~~(907) 479-6780~~ (907) 479-6780

ftmrm@uaf.edu

April 18, 2002

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

We are currently attending our State PTA convention in Anchorage. As members of the Fairbanks community, and representing more than 22 local Parent-Teacher Association, we strongly encourage you to increase education funding by the \$190 per student level for FY 03.

Parent-Teacher Associations in Fairbanks regularly donate funds for numerous reasons to help meet basic educational needs in our schools. Each year we are being asked to do more with less - this at a time when we have established higher standards and greater expectations for both students and teachers.

Quality education is our priority. We believe it is yours too. We hope you will show your support by voting to increase state education funding.

Naomi Walsworth, Fairbanks Council of PTA President
Villette Knight, Alaska PTA Regional II Vice President.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the State Finance

Committee on HB 4103 Committee Name

Bill / Subject

Dated 4/18/02

I am writing to urge full funding for the University of Alaska operating budget. We rely too much on oil and we know where that has gotten us. The university can help diversify our economy. The university has been responsible with spending and you have seen this. To cut an university budget will stop the momentum. We cannot afford to stop. The new programs are creating jobs for Alaskans and responding to the needs of the state. Yes there is a budget shortfall but I think you can find a way to do the right thing & support full funding.

SIGNED:

Cynthia R Branley
 Testifier

Representing
 725 Cardinal Ct. FBK5
 PO Box 73153 FBK5 99701 458-8002
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Budget & Finance Comm.

Committee on full funding for the Univ. Dated 4/18/02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

If time had permitted I would have introduced my three school age children: Elizabeth (8yrs); Kekuewa (7yrs) and Luana (3yrs). Coincidentally they are the three reasons I urge you to fully fund the Univ. of Alaska.

I returned to Alaska from a state that has wrestled with this very issue: reduced funding for higher ed. That state (Oregon) is finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their public system of higher ed. I hope Alaska can avoid such a fate.

It is not a question of whether my children will go to college - the real question is where they will attend. We cannot expect parents or their children to select a school that does not receive full support of its legislative ^{public} body.

Thank you for this opportunity.

SIGNED: Jaime A. (Saichi T. Oba)
 Testifier Elizabeth Oba
Kekuewa Oba, Luana Oba
 Representing _____
PO Box 750105, Fairbanks, AK 99775 917 4882955
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Finance Subcommittee

Committee on Cuts/Revenues

Committee Name

Dated April 18, 2002

Bill / Subject

THE TIME HAS COME TO CONCENTRATE ON REVENUE PRODUCING IDEAS AND NOT CONCENTRATING ON HOW WE CAN BALANCE THE BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF ALASKA'S POOR. I urge you to walk a mile in the shoes of those in your district who are down on their luck and need a little help finding their way. And if you are in a district full of middle class and high class, remember the biblical quote, "There but for the grace of God go I."

The proposed service cuts of tens of millions in a single year, plus the denial of strategic investments for children and the economy, will force layoffs of troopers and child protection workers, end a program to speed up adoptions and cut back on public health nurses. I ask you to reconsider!

It is time we looked at the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend. It has been an awesome gift however, it is time that we started acting like responsible citizens and consider eliminating it or reducing it. I also support the alcohol excise tax: SB 347.

I know you have some very tough decisions and I am confident when you remember we are dealing with people's lives you will have the courage to speak up and make the right decisions.

SIGNED:

Coleen Turner, Coleen Turner

Testifier

Representing

141 Wilgus Ave 99712 479-5176

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate
 Committee on WofA Overhaul Dated 4/18/02
Bill / Subject Committee Name

The Legislature needs to continue the impetus begun with the increased funding over the last three years. The future of our children and our workforce is in your hands. Invest in our future. Fully fund the University. Continue to support our best research.

SIGNATURE: Betty (Lupee)
 Testifier
University of Alaska
 Representing
PO Box 82969, Fairbanks, AK
 Address / Phone Number
907-479-4590

**SUBSTANCE
ABUSE
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA, INC**

DATE: April 18, 2002

Total Pages: 2

TO: Senate Finance Committee:

Senator Dave Donley, Co-Chair
Senator Pete Kelly, Co-Chair
Senator Jerry Ward, Vice-Chair
Senator Loren Leman
Senator Lyda Green
Senator Gary Wilken
Senator Alan Austerman
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Donny Olson

FROM: Mary Rosenzweig, Executive Director 

RE: Proposed amendments to the Senate HSS Finance subcommittee recommendation for the Department of Health and Social Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (Component Summary):

Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) component:

Amend subcommittee total of \$1,028.1 (K) by \$500 (K) to total of \$1,528.1 thousand.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Grants component:

Amend subcommittee total of \$19,342.2 (K) by \$4,628.7 (K) to a total of \$23,970.9 thousand.

On behalf of the Substance Abuse Directors Association of Alaska (SADA), which represents 56 directors of substance abuse treatment and prevention agencies statewide, I am writing this letter in lieu of public testimony before the committee on the issue of the FY 03 Operating Budget. While SADA recognizes that you are faced with a most daunting task as you balance state needs with available revenues, we urge you to place as a high priority the maintenance of core services and request that you consider restoration of two line items of particular concern to our organization:

Of particular concern to our organization are the proposed cuts to two line items within the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services BRU: Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Grants. Restoration of these line items to at least FY 2002 funding levels is critical to maintaining any progress made last year on the issue of drunk driving. The ASAP program is the first line of action for DWI offenders and has proven extremely effective in keeping individuals from reoffending. Proposed cuts of \$500 K would effectively eliminate five out of eight adult ASAP programs from a system that is already overtaxed; and would completely eliminate the juvenile ASAP program initiated just this year. Proposed cuts to treatment programs serving those assessed by the ASAP programs as needing intensive drug and alcohol treatment will only serve to lengthen a waitlist that is already prohibitive for the judicial system and individuals wanting treatment from seeing treatment as a viable option.

Further, the sizeable cut to treatment grants, effectively twenty percent from FY 02 levels, coupled with progressively larger cuts from our state's federal treatment block grant due to failure to meet maintenance of effort requirements, would cause massive layoffs, facility closures, reduction in services and lengthening

• Page 2

April 18, 2002

of waitlists for people wanting services. The unfortunate alternative for many of these people will be the corrections system and state custody for their children. Youth assessed as needing residential treatment will be forced to seek resources out-of-state. Treatment is proven to be cost effective when compared to the costs incurred by untreated individuals repeatedly moving through the judicial and corrections system. A state that has neither the resources to expand corrections, nor the desire to incarcerate every drunk driver cannot afford to jeopardize systems proven cost effective.

Specifically, SADA is requesting the following amendments to the Senate HSS Finance subcommittee recommendation for the **Department of Health and Social Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (Component Summary)**:

Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) component:

Amend subcommittee total of \$1,028.1 (K) by \$500 (K) to a total of \$1,528.1 thousand.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Grants component:

Amend subcommittee total of \$19,342.2 (K) by \$4,628.7 (K) to a total of \$23,970.9 thousand.

We respectfully urge you to consider these two requests. As I stated earlier, we realize you are faced with making some tough decisions and we have done our best to identify the most critical of services for restoration of funding.

Thank you for your consideration, I can be reached for questions at (907) 770-2927.

April 18, 2002

To: Senate Finance Subcommittee Members:

Your proposed cuts to social service programs are going to have an extremely detrimental impact on future state budgets. Reducing funding to Medicaid, Denali Kid Care, Foster Parent Programs, Alcohol & Tobacco Use Cessation/Prevention Programs, Power Cost Equalization, Mental Health Programs, AVTEC, General Assistance, Education, Suicide Prevention, Education, Public Health Nurses, Adoption Programs, Family Preservation Programs, Head Start, TANF, and other vital programs will have result in even more calls to Emergency Medical Service providers.

As Health & Safety Educator for Tanana Chiefs Conference, I daily see the combined positive effects of the programs you propose to cut. During my trips to communities throughout the Upper Tanana, I often receive requests for additional social services, especially mental health services. I relay these messages to the Tok Area Counseling Center, but they already have too large a caseload.

Additional funding cuts to social service programs is going to result in even fewer people receiving services, resulting in increases in domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse, sexual assault, violent crimes, alcoholism, drug abuse, and suicide. This is entirely contrary to the goals of Governor Knowles and to the promises you made to your constituents when you ran for State Senate.

Many people who dedicate themselves to social service work countless hours of overtime without asking for, or expecting, compensation. Your proposed cuts are going further overburden these people, cause burnout, and lead to an apathetic work force that can no longer provide the individualized services that their at risk clients require in order to remove themselves from dependency upon social services. The idiocy of your proposed budget cuts is beyond words.

During my volunteer work at the Upper Tanana Aging Program I often hear elders discussing whether to buy necessary medication or to heat their homes. If Power Cost Equalization funding is reduced, they will be forced to discuss whether to buy food, heating oil, or medication. For some elders, the meal they receive from the Upper Tanana Aging Program is the only meal they have that day.

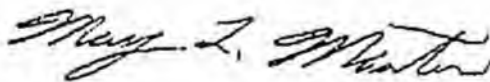
As a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician for Tok Area Emergency Medical Service, I am one of the 28 volunteer medical personnel who cover an area the size of the State of Virginia. One-third of our members are Emergency Medical Technician-III's, the highest training level without moving to attend a paramedic program. Our service has been extremely proactive in training it's members. The result is a high level of care not possible in many rural areas.

As medical training requires re-certification every two years, the loss of training funds will result in advanced care no longer being provided. Being the first medical service on the Alaskan side of the ALCAN, in the summer many of our patients are elderly and require advanced medical procedures. Without continued medical training and equipment funds Alaska will become prohibitive to all visitors except the most hardy. The hardy are often the young with the smallest disposable income. Thus a cut social services will also have a detrimental effect on tourism.

Petroleum, forestry, and commercial fishing operations will also have a smaller pool of Emergency Medical Technician to hire from to provide medical services. This will result in higher death rates in the oil, logging, and fishing industries. These deaths will be a direct result of your actions.

Please do not cut funding to the people who daily are working towards making Alaska a healthier and safer place to raise the next generation of Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Martin
PO Box 434
Tok, AK 99780-0434

Southeast Alaska Avalanche Center

PO Box 20578, Juneau, Alaska 99802 (907)586-5699 o & fax e-mail: seavalanche@gci.net

an educational nonprofit corporation

web: www.avalanche.org; click on Southeast Alaska link

April 18, 2002

Avalanche Safety Funding

* Alaska loses more people every year to avalanches than any other state, regardless of population; but we alone among the snow and mountain states have no government avalanche education and forecasting program.

* This issue affects all Alaskans, not just backcountry recreationists:

+ **Highways:** The Seward, Richardson, Dalton, Klondike, Old Glenn, and Haines Highways; Thane Road, Egan Expressway, Basin Road, and a host of smaller roads and streets all have avalanche problems which impact motorists and our state's economy.

There is no avalanche forecasting at all in Southeast Alaska. This winter, schoolbuses on Thane Road in Juneau were hit twice by avalanche dust clouds; near-misses that illustrate the risk. The legal and human cost of one destroyed schoolbus would pay for many years of avalanche forecasting!

+ **Urban residents:** A number of homes and businesses in Valdez and Cordova were hit and destroyed in the 1999-2000 Southcentral Alaska cycle. Juneau alone has 62 houses, 1 hotel, a freeway, and much of a boat harbor in avalanche zones; other towns with homes in avalanche areas include Anchorage-Eagle River, Girdwood, Moose Pass, and Kennicott.

+ **Workers:** Highway, city, and railroad maintenance crews, powerplant and line workers, loggers, rescue personnel, ski patrollers, and guides are frequently exposed to avalanche danger. Even such normally low-risk jobs as making deliveries involve avalanche risk when houses, highways, and industrial facilities are located in avalanche zones.

* **Prevention is cheaper than rescue:**

+ Avalanches are expensive: a very rough estimate from the state Department of Emergency Services for the cost of the big 1999-2000 avalanche cycle in Southcentral is \$16 million.

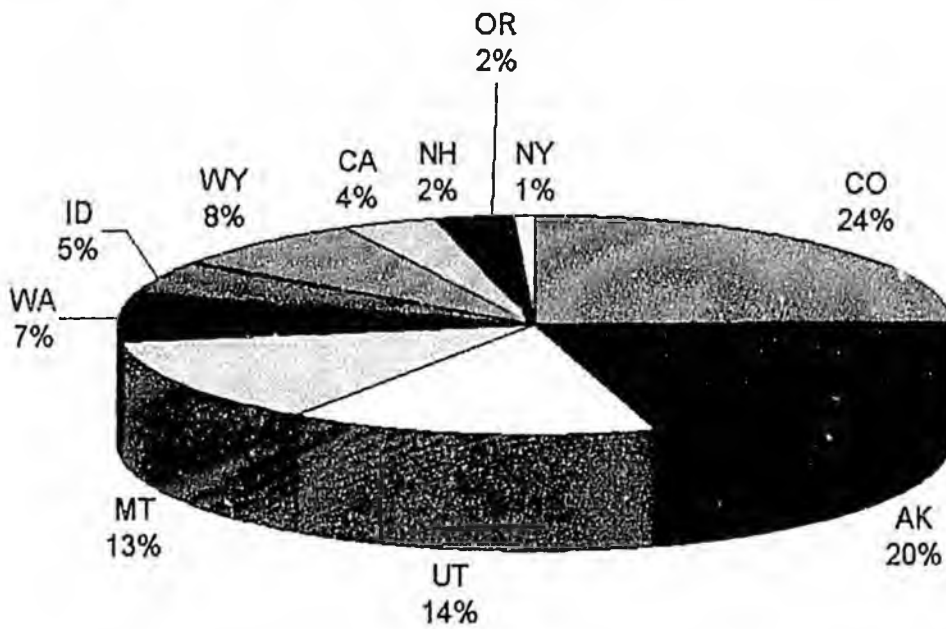
+ Even a fairly simple backcountry avalanche search and rescue effort can cost thousands of dollars and many hours of dangerous volunteer work.

+ **Prevention and forecasting WORKS:** In Switzerland, the avalanche fatality rate has decreased in recent years despite growing numbers of people in the Alps as a result of their government-funded education, forecasting, and mitigation program.

* Please support the remaining Public Safety avalanche funding, and increase the amount if possible! The amount remaining in the budget is nowhere near enough to run a forecasting program, but every little bit WILL help the nonprofits carry out our education work!

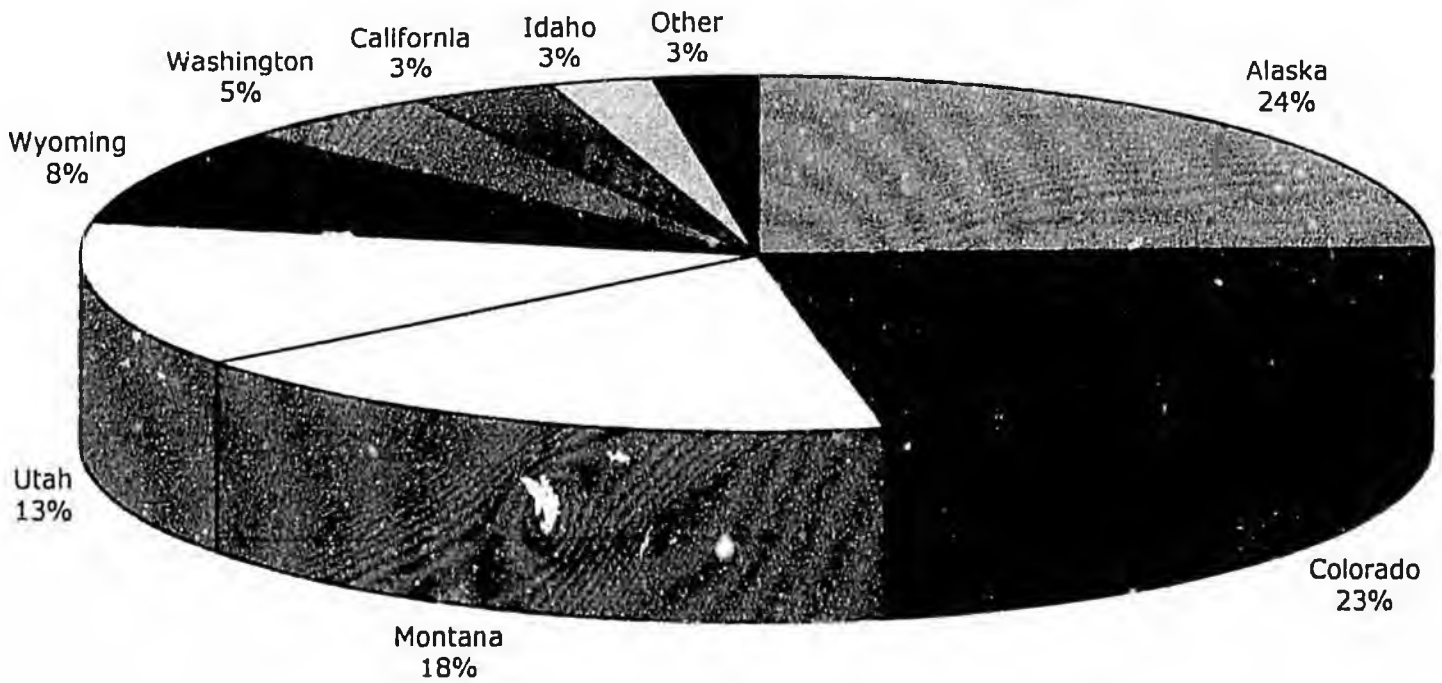
U.S. Avalanche Fatalities by State 1991-2001

(N = 234)

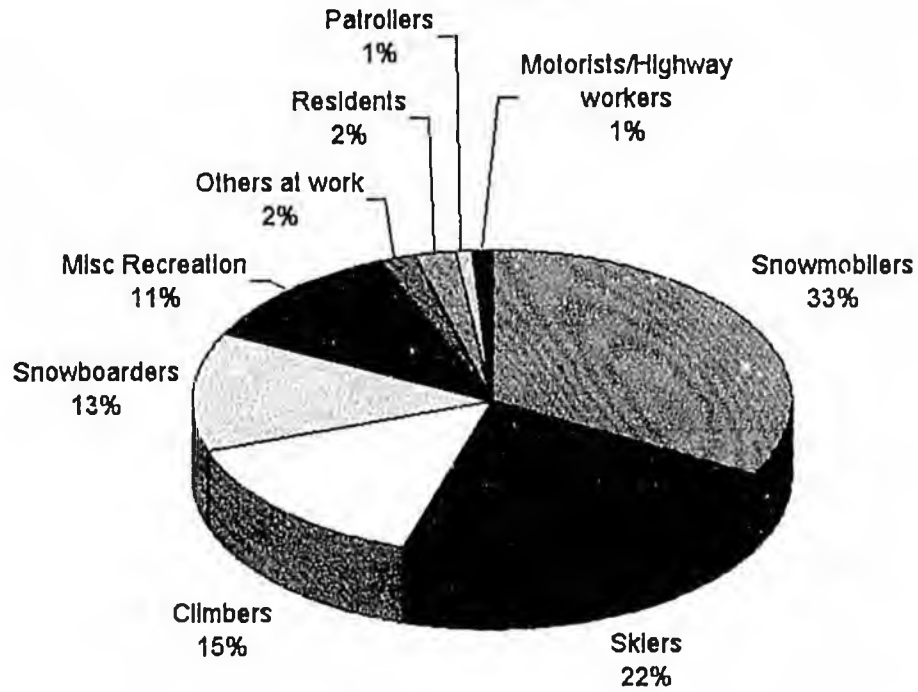


US Avalanche Fatalities by State, 1998-2002

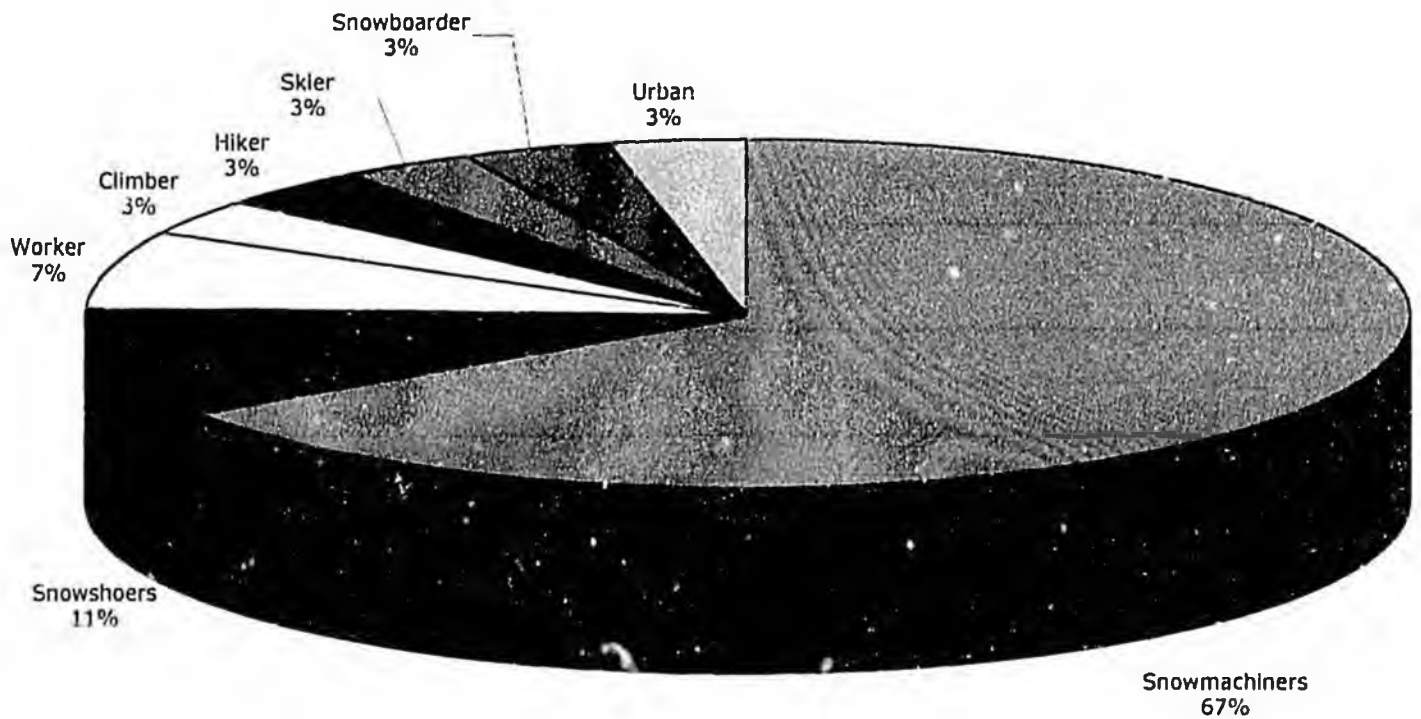
N=119



**U.S. Avalanche Fatalities by Activity
1995-2001
194 Total Fatalities**



**Alaska Avalanche Fatalities by Activity 98-02
N=29**



TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee
Co-Chairs Senator Dave Donley and Senator Pete Kelly
Vice-Chair: Senator Jerry Ward
Members: Senators Loren Leman, Lyda Green, Gary Wilken, Alan
Austerman, Lyman Hoffman, and Donald Olson

RE: Avalanche Awareness Education is Cheaper than
Search and Rescue Missions to Recover Dead Alaskan Bodies

FROM: Aedene L. Arthur, A M.O.M. (Alaska Mom On a Mission)

A DOLLAR SPENT ON PREVENTION AND EDUCATION CAN SAVE
THOUSANDS IN SEARCH AND RESCUE COSTS.

First I would like to thank you for your previous support in avalanche awareness education. Proclaiming November as Alaska Avalanche Awareness Month gives a target month to schedule activities, publicize classes and materials available for public perusal, promote the importance of avalanche awareness, and to urge Alaskans to purchase and learn how to use Basic Avalanche Rescue Gear (beacon, probe, and shovel).

I would also like to thank you for your support in last year's funds of \$50,000 to help with avalanche education. Once Alaskans realize education is an important element in traveling safely in the backcountry where avalanches might occur, there must be classes available for them to attend. Part of the problem in educating people has been that there have been very few avalanche specialists who could offer enough classes to fulfill the need. Part of the \$50,000 implemented a "Reach and Teach" train the trainer program. Avalanche technicians from around the state (Fairbanks, Sitka, Cordova, Girdwood, Wasilla, and Eagle River to name a few sites) were brought together to plan teaching activities and strategies. These teachers then returned to their communities and are giving presentations and teaching classes.

A member of BAART is one of the Reach and Teach participants, and has reached over 1800 individuals (from Boy Scouts to school classes to business groups) since the first Reach and Teach training session. He was able to do this much because he is not employed during the winter season. The very small stipend he received through the Reach and Teach program helped him to buy food to get through the winter. Volunteers can't be expected to do everything,

especially if they work all day. MONIES IN THE BUDGET CAN HELP THE REACH AND TEACH PROGRAM TO CONTINUE.

Education and CONSISTENT, accurate information about weather and snowpack conditions are both necessary factors for informed decisions about traveling in the backcountry. Since Alaska does not have a Forecast Center, education is extremely important. MONIES IN THE BUDGET CAN SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES. Note: Backcountry travelers who cannot access information about conditions before traveling is like taking away pilots' and boaters' ability to access weather conditions before planning a trip.

Alaska has the highest avalanche death rate per capita than any other state. Sixty-nine people have died since 1986; fourteen in 1999 alone. As of April 15, thirty-two Americans have died in avalanches this winter; eight or one-fourth of these deaths have occurred in Alaska.

An avalanche death is not just a statistic, this is an Alaskan citizen. This person is typically a father, husband, sibling, aunt or uncle; an important member of the local community and work place. Each death adversely affects the Alaskan economy: the person is lost from the work force, and the wage-earner who helps support a family can no longer contribute to the family's welfare.

Alaskans have been portrayed by some as independent adventurers who won't listen to warnings, but no Alaskan (no matter how adventurous or independent) enters the backcountry with a death wish. Until a CONSISTENT source of information about conditions in the most-traveled areas in the backcountry is available for easy access by the traveler, EDUCATION IS CRITICAL.

The cost to the Alaskan economy of Search and Rescue missions that recover dead bodies is very high. The Turnagain Pass avalanche where six Alaskans died (two of them service men) cost between \$1 and \$2 million alone. This includes the cost of National Guard, other government agencies involved, and work time lost by volunteer searchers.

The search and body recovery for the father and teen-ager from Fairbanks who died this winter was costly: to the family, to the community, to the Government Agencies involved. Through education, Alaskans get the message about the importance of Avalanche Rescue Gear. If someone is buried, those in the party have the tools to give the person a chance to survive. If a body is found immediately, then a search and rescue mission is not necessary.

Groups such as BAAKT are doing as much as they can to hold classes and get information into the hands of Alaskans. One such project is the placement of Avalanche Awareness Materials Sets of 5 videos and 5 books in middle and high schools, and public libraries around the state. This is being accomplished through tax-deductible \$200 donations from organizations, businesses, and individuals. These materials are often given in memory of a loved one who has died in an avalanche. The goal is to have these materials in all Alaska libraries where people live who can travel to avalanche terrain, by October. (WANT TO HELP PLACE A SET IN A LIBRARY? MY EMAIL IS beth@mtaonline.net, and I do presentations.)

We are hoping that packets can be sent in October to libraries, businesses, and groups around the state promoting Avalanche Awareness Month. These packets can include information about materials available in libraries as well as other educational hand-outs. At this time, there are no Alaska-generated educational hand-outs that can be utilized. MONIES IN THE BUDGET EARMARKED FOR AVALANCE EDUCATION COULD BE USED IN PART TO PRODUCE MATERIALS TO PROMOTE AWARENESS.

I realize this is a long missal to read, and I hope it is all right to have it hand-delivered. I cannot testify via teleconference because I have accompanied my elderly parents to Oregon so they could visit relatives and friends. It is difficult for me to hand-write a letter because I have carpal-tunnel syndrome. But it was important for me to put some of my thoughts on paper for your perusal.

I understand \$35,000 has been added to this year's budget for avalanche education. Thank you to those who moved and supported this effort. I understand the struggles you all have in Juneau this year. My Alaska family consists of four generations, and many of the state programs and other actions you are considering in Juneau have a tremendous effect on all our lives. I could probably spend every day testifying on items in connection with my family and my community service projects.

But I ask you today (in memory of my son, the other 68 Alaskans who have died since 1986, and their families) to continue to support avalanche education efforts to save lives and save the state monies in search and rescuc efforts by (at the very least) retaining (if not increasing) the budgeted amount. Thank you -
Aedene L. Arthur, HCO 2 Box 7300, Palmer 99645 907-745-5374

FROM

(FRI) APR 19 2002 7:19/ST. 7:18/NO. 6305418393 P 1



Fax

O. Box 516 • Northway, Alaska 99764 • (907) 778-2311 • FAX (907) 778-2220

To: _____ From: Mary A. Demit

From: 907-465-2187 Pages: 4

Phone: 907- Date: 4-18-02

Re: Pom. (4) CC: _____

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Comments

To hand to appropriate persons

Thank-you

Confidentiality Notice

This transmission is intended for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that disclosure, distribution, or copying of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately at the above phone number.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Deby Northway, Tribal Administrator Ext. 24 | Maggie Northway, Social Service Administrator Ext. 22 |
| Christine Frank, Bookkeeper Ext. 25 | Alice Nutting, General Assistant Ext. 23 |
| Eleanor David, Secretary Ext. 21 | Crystalene Sam, Indian Child Welfare Act. Ext. 27 |
| Donna Northway, CHR @ 778-2224-226 | Mary Angela Demit, UTAP Counselor Ext. 28 |
| Christine Sam-TWDS Ext. 27 | (907) 778-2250 |

Mary Angela Demit

UTAP

FROM

Public Opinion Message

Tok Legislative Information Office (L.I.O.)
P.O. Box 645, W. First Street Tok, Alaska 99780 Phone (907) 863-5020 Fax (907) 863-5021

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

From: Please PRINT the information below. This form must be signed by the sender.

Mr., Mrs., Ms., etc.	First Name	City	Last Name	H., R., E.
	CRYSTAL		SAM	
Mailing Address	Box 414			Zip
Residence (street) address or alternate mail address	NORTHWAY, AK			City
Country telephone number	Group affiliation (if applicable)	Signature	Date	
752311		Crystal Sam	4.18.02	

To: Put a in the appropriate box(es). **Email Address:**

Committee		House members		Senate members	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> House	Community & Regional Affairs (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jankovitz (dar)	<input type="checkbox"/> Karvula (kar)	<input type="checkbox"/> Austerman (aust)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance (fin)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bunde (bur)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kanning (kon)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cowhey (cow)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health, Ed., & Social Services (has)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chensur (cha)	<input type="checkbox"/> Keokean (kod)	<input type="checkbox"/> Davis (dav)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Judiciary (jud)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ciema (cia)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kon (kon)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jorrey (jor)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor & Commerce (lac)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cognli (cog)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lanesar (lan)	<input type="checkbox"/> Elio (eli)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resources (res)	<input type="checkbox"/> Crawford (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Meek (mea)	<input type="checkbox"/> Elton (elt)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rules (rul)	<input type="checkbox"/> Croft (cro)	<input type="checkbox"/> McGuire (mcg)	<input type="checkbox"/> Green (gre)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Affairs (sta)	<input type="checkbox"/> Davies (dav)	<input type="checkbox"/> Meyer (mey)	<input type="checkbox"/> Haller (hal)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation (tra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dyson (dya)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moran (mor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hoffman (hof)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Felt (fel)	<input type="checkbox"/> Moses (mos)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly (kelly)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Foster (fos)	<input type="checkbox"/> Niles (nil)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lomen (lom)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Green (grn)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pankowich (pan)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln (lin)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Gues (gue)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pagan (oga)	<input type="checkbox"/> Olsen (ols)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Hales (hal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Porter (por)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pearce (pae)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Harris (har)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruckberg (ruk)	<input type="checkbox"/> Philip (phi)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Hayes (hay)	<input type="checkbox"/> Scarsi (sca)	<input type="checkbox"/> Taylor (tay)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Hudson (hud)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stevens (stv)	<input type="checkbox"/> Theriault (tht)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> James (jam)	<input type="checkbox"/> Whitner (whi)	<input type="checkbox"/> Torgerson (tor)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Jule (jul)	<input type="checkbox"/> Williams (wll)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward (war)	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Kasper (kas)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson (wil)	<input type="checkbox"/> Weber (web)	

Subject: Fill out the boxes below OR enter a Subject

House #	Bill number	and check one:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose	<input type="checkbox"/> Amend	OR enter a general Subject (L.I.O. staff may modify):
44	225					

Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

I	WOULD	LIKE	TO	HELP
OUR	PEOPLE	TO	STOP	DRINKING
ESPECIALLY	FOR	THE	WOMEN	WHO
ARE	PREGNANT	WITH	THE	BABIES
BECAUSE	THEY	ARE	OUR	FUTURE
GENERATION,	ALSO	THERE	SHOULD	BE
A	PENALTY	FOR	THEM.	AND
TO	HELP	THEM	STOP	PUT
PROGRAMS	FOR	THEM.	WE	HAD
A	COUPLE	PEOPLE	DIE	FROM
ALCOHOL	DON'T	LET	ANY	MORE
DIE.				

Public Opinion Message

Tox Legislative Information Office (L.I.O.):
P.O. Box 846, W. Pine Street Tch. ALABAMA 36780 Phone (907) 893-5020 Fax (907) 893-5021

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

From: Please PRINT the information below. This form must be signed by the sender.

Mr. Ms. Mrs.	Mr. Ms. Mrs.	Mr. Ms. Mrs.
Christine	Sam	
Box 414 Northway Ate 99764 →		
City/State/Zip (please include a return address)		
Same		
City/State/Zip (please include a return address)	Signature	Date
907-178-2311	Christine Sam	4-18-02

To: Put a ✓ in the appropriate boxes. Email Address:

Committees	House members	Senate members
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Banking <input type="checkbox"/> Community & Regional Affairs (cro) <input type="checkbox"/> Finance (fin) <input type="checkbox"/> Health, Ed., & Social Services (hes) <input type="checkbox"/> Judiciary (jud) <input type="checkbox"/> Labor & Commerce (lnc) <input type="checkbox"/> Resources (res) <input type="checkbox"/> Rules (rul) <input type="checkbox"/> State Affairs (sta) <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation (tra) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Berkowitz (rep) <input type="checkbox"/> Burdette (rep) <input type="checkbox"/> Chismar (rep) <input type="checkbox"/> Cuzara (dis) <input type="checkbox"/> Coghill (dog) <input type="checkbox"/> Crawford (cfr) <input type="checkbox"/> Croft (cro) <input type="checkbox"/> Davies (dav) <input type="checkbox"/> D'Yon (dya) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fale (fir) <input type="checkbox"/> Foster (fos) <input type="checkbox"/> Green (grn) <input type="checkbox"/> Guada (gud) <input type="checkbox"/> Haines (hai) <input type="checkbox"/> Harbo (har) <input type="checkbox"/> Hayes (hay) <input type="checkbox"/> Hudson (hud) <input type="checkbox"/> James (jam) <input type="checkbox"/> Janda (jnd) <input type="checkbox"/> Kapener (kap)	<input type="checkbox"/> Austerman (aue) <input type="checkbox"/> Cowley (cow) <input type="checkbox"/> Davis (dab) <input type="checkbox"/> Jolley (dol) <input type="checkbox"/> Siza (sil) <input type="checkbox"/> Eton (eb) <input type="checkbox"/> Green (gre) <input type="checkbox"/> Hallford (hal) <input type="checkbox"/> Mathman (mat) <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly (kep) <input type="checkbox"/> Leman (lem) <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln (lin) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olson (ole) <input type="checkbox"/> Pearce (per) <input type="checkbox"/> Pyle (pyl) <input type="checkbox"/> Taylor (tay) <input type="checkbox"/> Thorsell (thr) <input type="checkbox"/> Tolpeltan (tol) <input type="checkbox"/> Ward (war) <input type="checkbox"/> Watson (wat)

Subject: Fill out the boxes below QB enter a Subject.

Yes No Other
 and check one: Support Oppose Amend
 enter a general Subject (L.I.O staff may modify):

Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 80 words or contain any vulgar language.

Yes, I vote	for	Alcoholic.
Beverage	is a lot	of under age
drinking.	much	alcohol
3- Put	price	on
higher	other	country.
than	you	

Public Opinion Message

7th Legislative Information Office (L.I.O.)
P.O. Box 648, W. First Street Tok, Alaska 99780 Phone (907) 853-5020 Fax (907) 853-5021

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

FROM: Please PRINT the information below. This form must be signed by the sender.

Mr. McCall	Mr. Tolson	Mr. S. L.
Mr. Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	Mr. Demit
Mailing address		Zip code
P.O. Box 493		997769
My phone (leave address if different than mailing address)		
907 Northway, Ak. 99		
My fax (leave address if different than mailing address)		
907-778-2258		4-18-02
My e-mail address		

To: Put a in the appropriate box(es). Email Address:

Committee	House members	Senate members
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HERS	<input type="checkbox"/> Santolucito (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Auerman (D-W)
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance (FR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sundt (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cowley (D-W)
<input type="checkbox"/> Health, Ed., & Social Services (HE)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chisallut (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Davis (D-W)
<input type="checkbox"/> Judiciary (JU)	<input type="checkbox"/> Clarna (D-S)	<input type="checkbox"/> Demay (D-W)
<input type="checkbox"/> Labor & Commerce (LC)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cognell (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gila (D-S)
<input type="checkbox"/> Resources (RE)	<input type="checkbox"/> Crawford (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Eton (D-W)
<input type="checkbox"/> Rules (RU)	<input type="checkbox"/> Croft (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Green (D-S)
<input type="checkbox"/> State Affairs (SA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Devier (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hallard (D-W)
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation (TR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dyon (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hoffman (D-W)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly (D-W)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster (D-S)	<input type="checkbox"/> Laman (D-W)
<input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage (leg)	<input type="checkbox"/> Green (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lynein (D-W)
<input type="checkbox"/> Bush (D-W)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gross (D-W)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olson (D-S)
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicist/Informer (PI)	<input type="checkbox"/> Heiko (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Puzze (D-S)
<input type="checkbox"/> Media (M)	<input type="checkbox"/> Harris (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Press (D-S)
<input type="checkbox"/> Majority (M)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hayes (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Taylor (D-W)
<input type="checkbox"/> Minority (M)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hudson (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Threlkett (D-W)
	<input type="checkbox"/> James (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tolsonson (D-W)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Jule (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward (D-W)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kagener (D-W)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilham (D-W)

Subject: Fill out the boxes below enter a Subject

Enter a general Subject (L.O. staff may modify):

Subject Support Oppose Amend

Message: Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 80 words or contain any vulgar language.

Yes I am in full support of the Alcohol Beverage Tax Reduction for many violence + abuse in families
 Teenage accidents. Very high rate of underage drinking. Too many deaths related from Alcohol abuse. It all happens to the family. It's in our newspapers every day. It's because of Alcohol. Let's work hard to get to try to overcome the devastating effects of Alcohol.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE
PO BOX 1189
ROOM 210 JARVIS OFFICE CENTER
DELTA JCT., AK 99737

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	Senate Finance Committee	FROM:	Elizabeth Sarver <i>ES</i>
COMPANY:	Alaska State Legislature	DATE:	April 18, 2002
FAX NUMBER:	465-2187	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	7
PHONE NUMBER:	[Click here and type phone number]	SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:	(907) 895-4236
RE:	Teleconference Testimony for 04/18/02	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:	(907) 895-5017 fax

URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:



Alaska State Legislature

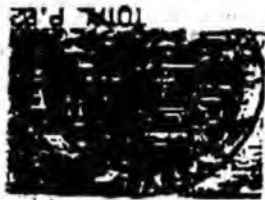
Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
committee name
committee on The Budget, dated 4-18-02
bill/subject

Please take a serious look at the proposed budget cuts. Cutting services like Parks, road maintenance and troopers are ridiculous. These things are vital to the overall "health" of our state.

Find the money for the budget elsewhere - taxes (within reason, of course), permanent fund, etc. We need the services more than we need the over-generous dividend (cap would help) or lack of taxes. Our state has a welfare mentality that needs to stop.

Signed: Maubert Mill
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
HC 60 Box 4140 Delta, AK 99737
Address
895-6208
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 committee on Education Funding, dated 4-17-02
bill/subject committee name

I urge you to increase funding for our schools. Anything less than \$190 per student (\$32.7 million) increase in state funding in FY 03 does not measure up.

Signed:

Whit Aillaud

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

Box 1245 Delta AK 99737

Address

895-4286

Phone No.

①

ALASKA



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance

committee on Education Funding committee name dated 4/17/02

bill/subject

Education has had to limp around with inadequate funding for more than a decade when you mandated unfunded standards. I had to comfort little special needs students who were in tears having to take the tests you mandated before having reasonable intervention and accommodation plans in place. Our constitution has mandated that you establish and maintain a school system. Education funding must be the #1 priority for Alaska's children and our future. Anything less than \$190 per student INCREASE IN STATE FUNDING IN FY03 does not measure up! Our students need and deserve updated materials, textbooks, resources and technology. They deserve learning environments that are conducive to learning, not overcrowded classrooms. They deserve teachers who are trained to teach — not just any warm body. They deserve quality support professionals who do make a difference! Our schools need to be SAFE. These things

Signed:

JACKIE L. Nelson Jackie Nelson

Testifier
President, Delta-Greely Education Support Personnel Assoc.

Representing (Optional)
Special Education Aide, Mother of 3

Address
HC 60 Bx 4180, Delta Jct., AK

Phone No. 99737 895-4817
<jackie@wildak.net>

need to be funded ⁽²⁾ by you
 to make sure that we, "Leave no
 child Behind" the resources need to
 be in the schools to allow our districts,
 administrators, teachers and education
 support professionals to do what they
 do best... teach our children! Your
 job should be clear — increase
 educational funding by NO LESS THAN
 \$190 per STUDENT in FY03. Anything
 less is child neglect! The future
 of our children and our state
 depends on you "stepping up to
 the plate" with adequate funding
 for education.

Signed: JACKIE L. Nelson Jackie Nelson
 President, ^{Testifier} Delta-Greely Education Support
 Special Education Aide, ^{Representing (Optional)} Personnel Assoc.
 Mother of 3
 Address: HC 60 BX 4180, Delta Jct., AK
99737 Phone No. 895-4217



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 committee on Budget, dated April 18, 2002
committee name
bill/subject

If state budget cuts could specifically be geared for the fat at the top, it would be fine. But the cuts hit the working men + women out clearing the roads, marketing timber sales, policing our highway + cities etc. Our state doesn't have a budget problem, we just have a group of lawmakers that can't make a decision.

Our state's citizens have gotten too used to free money from the state, and free services.

Use of the perm fund is quite reasonable as is a state income tax. We should be getting money from all the outsiders that take our state dollars and give nothing back.

Don't continue cutting the budget at the cost of leaving our highways + cities unsafe and our resources undeveloped. Thank you

Signed:

Scott R Miller
Testifier

Misty Mountain Farm
Representing (Optional)

HC 60 Box 4140, Delta Jet Alt
Address

907-895-6208
Phone No.

TOTAL P.07



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senack Finance
 committee on Education dated 4/17/02
 bill/subject committee name

We need to fund our student's education. I am urging you to settle for nothing less than \$190 per child school increase in education funding. We have failed to keep up with inflation for more than a decade. Alaska's children are paying the price. Fund education as a constitutional mandate before other programs are funded. I support the option of funding education with monies from the permanent fund! I am also in favor of taking monies out of each individual pay check once a year for education only. This was done in the past and could be done now. If we set up taxes we need an expensive structure to support that system.

Signed:

Melinda Eggleston
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 722 Delta AK 99737

Address

905-4332

Phone No.

APR 18 2002 14:05



STATE OF ALASKA/ LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

Petersburg Legislative Information office P.O. Box 1470 Petersburg, AK 99833
Phone: 907-772-3741 Fax: 907-772-3779

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: Senate Finance Committee, Attn Mindy Rowland

FAX: 907-465-2187

DATE: April 18, 2002

RE: Written Testimony/ Budget Bills

FROM: Ellen Sharpsteen

Please enter this written testimony into the record for yesterday's hearing in SFIN on the HB403/404 and SB288/289. Ms Menish-Mucci also requests that Members of the Committee receive a copy of her comments.
Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellen".

FROM : MEUCCI@9077724694TTTTTTTTTT

PHONE NO. : 9077724694

Apr. 18 2002 08:51AM P1

For the Senate Finance Com.

My name is Marilyn Menish-Meucci from Petersburg and I am testifying as a resident of the State of Alaska. I am so baffled by what you are doing in Juneau it is hard to know where to start. You are cutting every thing that helps our state function and be a place that people want to live in and raise a family. If you under fund the Marine Highway System we will have less service than we did in the 1960's. By cutting snow removal the roads will not be plowed on our school bus route. By cutting snow removal at our airport that would mean we in Petersburg will have a hard time getting out of town, especially with the cut in the Marine Highway. Do you understand that 50% of the tourists headed for Anchorage and Fairbanks are traveling on the Marine Highway to get there?? I feel most of you have forgotten why you are in Juneau. You are there for the betterment of our state as a whole, not just for a district here or there. I feel a state income tax would be a way to have those that work in our state seasonally help pay for the services they use. You need to get focused and get a fiscal plan for the years to come. I am opposed to a state sale tax as Petersburg [and many other communities] already has a sales tax in place. I have heard many people in the last hour [from all over the state] testify that they are ready for a state income tax. ARE YOU LISTENING????? Thank you.

Marilyn Menish-Meucci

April 17, 2002

Box 1086

Petersburg, AK 99833