

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

2639

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 2003-2004

205

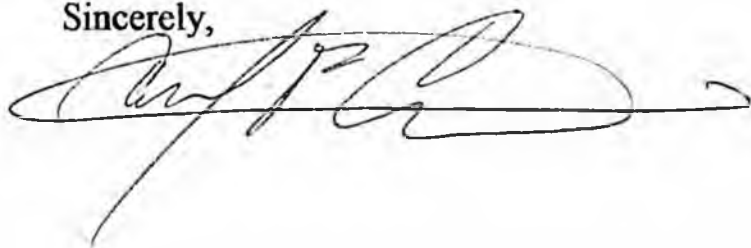
April 20,03

To: Frank Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee

Please restore the 2.2 million dollars you are proposing to cut from the DD base grants statewide. This drastic cut will affect a large population within our community. That funding allows families and individuals to have services that will keep families together and strengthen the family unit. Without this funding source, many families will go into crisis, costing the State of Alaska more money through Medicaid than what the DD grants originally were. Additional cuts to the Infant Learning Programs as well as vocational grants will not only isolate families and individuals, but not allow inclusion in their own communities.

Please remember that this is the most fragile population within the State of Alaska, and making these horrendous cuts will erode the limited services that are currently being offered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Frank Murkowski", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

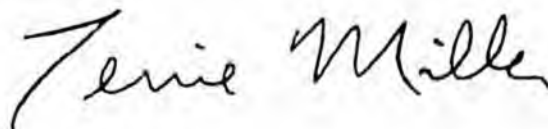
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terrie Miller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Terrie Miller".

April 20,03

To: Frank Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee

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Sincerely,

Carey L Edwards

April 20,03

To: Frank Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee

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Sincerely,

Jusaw Munroque P.T
#56

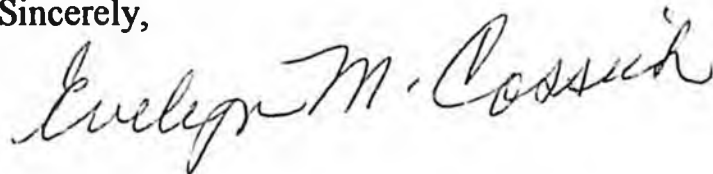
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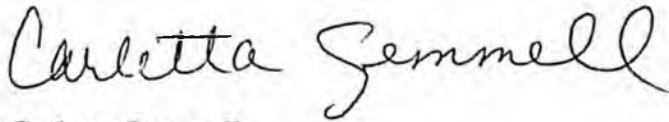
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evelyn M. Cassick". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Evelyn M. Cassick".

April 21, 2003

Senator Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee,

Due to the many cuts that are happening in the State at this time, it seems harsh to put an even bigger cut on our handicapped community. 2.5 million dollars to these people is so much of there world. Do you realize that this would mean someone not able to have the care they needed at night or through the day, if they need to go to the restroom or if they fall or need to get something to eat. We encourage people to be able to live a normal life and yet, you see the need to take this away from them. How would you feel if you were not given a chance to live a normal life? Think about this for a moment, your freedom to go to the bathroom or ability to go to the refrigerator and get something to eat when you want. Even the ability to pick up a telephone and tell someone you love them, would be taken away. Please see the need to give back to this community of people; we all need the chance to live a normal everyday life.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carletta Gemmell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Carletta Gemmell

April 20,03

To: Frank Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee

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Sincerely,

Margy Mullen

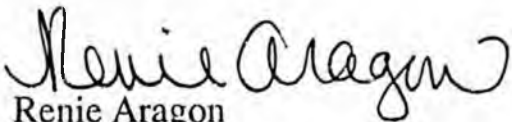
April 21, 2003

To: Mr. Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee

This letter is in reference to encourage the restoration of the 2.2 million dollars you are proposing to cut from the Developmental Disabilities base grants STATEWIDE. This terrible cut will affect a very large population within our community with drastic measures taken place. These particular funds assists families with being able to stay together and without these funds, crisis happens amongst families and then in turn costing the State of Alaska more money through Medicaid. In fact, a more drastic measure is also affected if by cutting the Medicaid budget. Additional cuts to the Infant Learning Program as well will not only isolate families and individuals, but not allow inclusion in their own homes and/or community. Without Infant Learning Programs children will not succeed in adult life without the assistance of Educator's helping these children gain skills that are appropriate for their age and in most instances, these children grow up to be independent adults who will succeed in life.

Please remember that this is the most fragile and dependent population within our State and making these drastic cuts will not only affect those that need the services but it affects the way we will have to provide those limited services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Renie Aragon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Renie Aragon
Soldotna

To: Frank Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee

I am writing this letter in regards to the 2.2 million dollars that is a proposed cut to the DD base grants state wide. This cut will tragically affect a section of the population who desperately needs our help. We have a moral and ethical responsibility as a civilized society to care for those who cannot care for themselves.

After working with this population for several years I agree that changes need to be made. However, this type of blanket budget cut is not in the interest of those people who need the services to survive. I believe that cuts can be made without adversely affecting this population. I would be willing to share my insight on how cuts could be made to the system that would be effective.

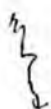
Please take the time to find where the waste is before making such a devastating cut in funding.

Sincerely,



Rev. David M. Smuin

4-21-03



April 20,03

To: Frank Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee

Please restore the 2.2 million dollars you are proposing to cut from the DD base grants statewide. This drastic cut will affect a large population within our community. That funding allows families and individuals to have services that will keep families together and strengthen the family unit. Without this funding source, many families will go into crisis, costing the State of Alaska more money through Medicaid than what the DD grants originally were. Additional cuts to the Infant Learning Programs as well as vocational grants will not only isolate families and individuals, but not allow inclusion in their own communities.

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Sincerely,

Ron W Rogers

April 20,03

To: Frank Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee

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Sincerely,

Erika Bronson

April 21, 2003

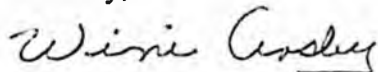
To Governor Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee:

I am very disappointed in the decisions being made in Juneau by you and the majority caucus. One of the things that I thought you stated while campaigning for office was that you would preserve basic services while developing other revenue sources. Many basic services are being cut while I see no new revenue streams developing.

Your proposed budget cuts are not going to preserve the basic services needed by people with developmental disabilities. Your budget proposes 2.2 million from Developmental Disabilities grants and \$500,000 from the Infant Learning Grants. These cuts will leave individuals/ families without the services needed to remain in their own community and out of institutional settings. The effects that these cuts could have remind me of the deinstitutionalization of people experiencing mental illness in New York in the 80s where a whole new population of homeless was created.

I urge you and the senate to restore the cuts that have been made to the grants and fund these services at current levels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wini Crosby". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Wini Crosby
Advocate

April 20,03

To: Frank Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. [unclear]". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

April 20, 2003

To: Frank Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee

The 2.2 million dollars you are proposing to cut is crucial to the quality of life of a large population of individuals in our community. The funding currently allows families and individuals to have services that keep families together and supports the family unit. With these drastic cuts, many families will be in crisis, costing the State of Alaska more money through Medicaid than what the DD grants originally were. Additional cuts to the Infant Learning Programs as well as vocational grants will not only isolate families and individuals, but not allow inclusion in their own community.

As an infant learning educator I understand and have seen how proactive steps and family support can affect a child's future. This is a fragile population and making these cuts will further erode the limited services that are currently being offered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Faulkner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Amanda Faulkner
Frontier Community Services
Infant Learning Educator

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a parent who receives DD services for my child. I am seriously against any and all cut backs that will have an impact on all DD services. My child is a high needs child and the respite that my child receives has huge benefits not only for my child but also for my family. Without these services we would not be a success story!

Please **research** and **reconsider** the devastating effect that will happen when these DD services receive cut backs. Success stories will become static's of juvenile incarcerations and later adult incarcerations.

Thank you for your help and understanding to the DD services issue at hand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anita E. Price".

Anita E. Price

4-21-03

April 20th, 2003

**To Frank Murkowski and the Senate Finance
Committee:**

**It is imperative that you not cut the proposed monies
from the Developmentally Disabled base grants. This
cut will wipe out entire programs for a population that
most often cannot advocate for themselves.**

**The cuts that you are proposing will wipe out programs
that give jobs, purpose, and dignity to a group of people
who will otherwise be sitting with nothing to do.**

**I would much prefer my permanent fund be completely
eliminated than see these much needed services be
devastated.**

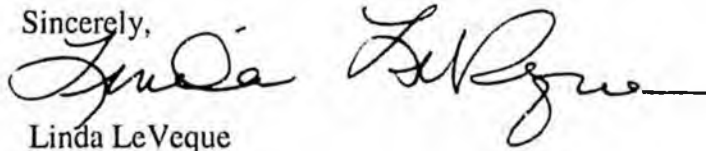
**Sincerely,
Ginger R. Drals**

April 20, 03

To Frank Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee

I am the foster mother of a special needs child with disabilities, and I am very concerned as to the future of this child. You certainly can not be serious about cutting 2.2 million dollars from DD grants. I hope that you have taken into consideration how this funding allows children to be able to have the services that they so desperately need. It would be an inhumane act to cause the crisis situations that will occur if this funding is cut. Since when do we not pay attention to all the research about the brain and how helpful it is to intervene at as early an age as possible (which saves us money in the long run)? Please try and put yourselves into the shoes of these families and my shoes for that matter. I would not be able to supply a safe and nurturing home for this foster child, because if the funding is cut I would no longer be able to have the necessary supports in place so I can continue to work. This would end up costing more in the long run with institutionalization, not to mention the regression that would take place due to the trauma experienced by another move for this child.

Sincerely,

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

Linda LeVeque

April 21st, 2003

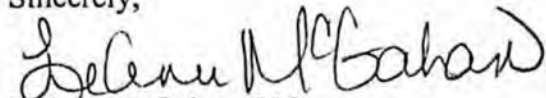
Dear: Frank Murkowski and the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is LeAnn McGahan and I am an RN in the state of Alaska. I am a Developmental Disabilities Nurse and I work with families that have children with complex medical conditions. Most of these families try to care for their children without help (financial or physical) for as long as they are able. This often times means that they are surviving on very little sleep and in "crisis" mode at this point. State funding is sometimes available to them at this point but depends on how bad the crisis is. This is where the base grant funding is imperative. Without these funds to keep families going until more funding is available, most of these children would end up in a foster care setting, which I believe would be even more taxing on the state.

I am urging you to restore the 2.2 million dollars that you are proposing to cut from the developmental Disabilities grants within our state. Why not support the families of children with disabilities so they can continue to care for the children, which they usually want to do anyways.

I understand the state budget needs revisions, I would gladly pay a state income tax or a statewide sales tax to prevent the money from being taken away from the elderly, disabled, or the education of our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "LeAnn McGahan".

LeAnn McGahan, RN
Soldotna, AK

April 20, 2003

To: Frank Murkos'ci and the Senate Finance Committee

I am writing to tell you about my daughter, Katie Haas, age 21 who receives services from a program funded through the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities.

Katie contracted spinal meningitis-H-Flu type at the age of 5 weeks. This devastating illness left her blind, with out speech and confined to a wheelchair. She also has an uncontrolled seizure disorder. She is fed through a G-Tube and is very limited in most areas of her life. This happened in 1981 and our family has survived over the years with respite services and the Infant Learning Program that was so vital to us when we look back over the years. We had many crisis's along the way, as is usual with families that have a disabled child. Without the services we received through the State of Alaska—our family would have fallen completely apart. I am in touch with a lot of families and individuals that experience a disability and they are usually **tired**. **Tired** from caring for their disabled child throughout the night. **Tired** from being the sole care provider. **Tired** from **not** being **ABLE** to work outside the home due to the severity of the disability. What most of these families do **NOT** need is someone making quick, **non-informed** decisions that affect what limited services they may be fortunate enough to receive.

I have never been opposed to taking our fair share of budget cuts and we certainly have along the way. But in a State that has still chosen not to enact an income tax, or a statewide sales tax, I find it repulsive that you would cut programs to education, seniors and the disabled. I was always taught that it was our responsibility to take care of those who could not take care of themselves. What were you thinking when you are making these life-changing budget cuts? Is it because your personal future with retirement benefits is bright and you would rather not think of anyone else? Have you ever tried to live on a budget of \$900.00 a month? Do you think anyone needing this type of assistance in our community can afford to purchase

services? Do you think that people that are disabled chose this life to live?
We are all just one accident or illness away from being disabled....

We have been spoiled too long in this state and it is time to implement some different types of taxes. I will gladly pay an income tax and even a statewide sales tax.

I am strongly requesting that you restore the 2.2 million dollars that you are proposing to cut from DD grants within our state, and know that it is the right decision.

Thank you

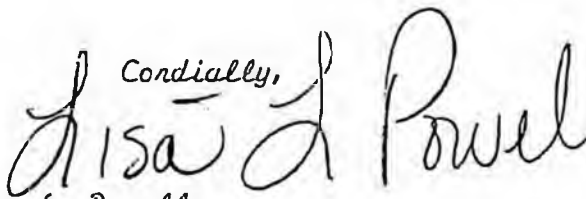
Lynnette Haas
Soldotna

LISA L. POWELL
35555 Spur hwy PMB 165
Soldotna, Ak 99669

To: Frank Murkowski

Subject: Budget cuts to the mentally disabled funds

I have recently heard of the possible budget cuts for the mentally disabled fund, which may take place. There is a great need for this fund as it is. I take care of several elderly and mentally challenged people every week, most are unable to perform the standard every day tasks you and I take for granted, such as cooking, cleaning, walking, using the restroom. Without everyday assistance I fear there will be terrible consequences. Cutting back on funding would create even more problems, not only for the disabled people but for the state as well. There may very well be greater expense to the state due to patients falling down, injuring themselves. It's hard to say what will happen, I personally do not think it will be a positive change. I am writing to remind everyone of the possible outcome of such a plan. Please do reconsider before you take such a drastic measure. The mentally disabled people of Alaska thank you and I personally Thank you.

Cordially,

Lisa L. Powell

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
DIVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

PHONE: 772-3741

FAX: 772-3779

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: SENATE FINANCE

FAX: 465.2184

DATE: 4/18/2003

MESSAGE:

2 PAGES TO FOLLOW THIS COVER -

THIS TESTIMONY WAS SUBMITTED
FOR SFIN CONSIDERATION ON
4/16. MY RESERVE DID NOT FAX
IT TO THE COMTE, WE HOPE YOU
CAN ENTER IT FOR THE RECORD
AND THE CMTE'S CONSIDERATION

THANK YOU,
Ellen Sharpsteen
Petersburg LI

MR CHAIRPERSONS MEMBERS
OF THE COMMITTEE

REVENUE SHARING CUT EFFECTS

THIS IS ~~THIS~~ the wrong time for the State to cut line items within its budget that affect municipalities. Coastal communities in western and southeast Alaska are facing a severe economic downturn due to declining fish markets and loss of the timber industry. At the same time, the price of oil is up, so the State's financial position should be looking relatively good, especially compared to municipalities that are exhausting their means of acquiring operating revenue. Many cities are at, or near, their tax limits and can not locally raise sufficient revenues to continue to provide adequate, essential services to their residents.

HISTORICALLY
HOLDING STADY ON

- Oil revenue is the people's money and in these times of economic downturn the State should be increasing revenue sharing instead of continuing the vicious cycle we are in. Our local economy is taking a tail spin. We are losing population, yet our debt obligations remain. Schools and communities have continued fixed costs, no matter how many pupils or citizens served. 6.26. 2002 from 759 We must provide the same level of police and fire protection, no matter if our population is 3,400 people, or 2,500 people.

- Revenue Sharing and Safe Community Program receipts provide needed funds for the most basic social services. Any funding decrease, let alone a 25% reduction, hurts the social well being of a community.

- Now is the time to be funding social service and public safety programs to the max. Programs such as drug and alcohol counseling, mental health services, public health nurse, fire and police protection are very necessary services, and more so when people are out of work, that must be provided in each and every community.

- The City of Petersburg has traditionally funded its social service and public safety programs well above levels provided from the state and the city will try its very best to continue to do so. However, the city currently faces a projected shortfall of \$250,000. in its upcoming FY 04 budget just to maintain existing service levels. Any further decrease in revenues will create an even greater gap.

- **State Revenue Sharing Received**

Revenue Sharing funds received from the State are restricted for use in the following categories. This fiscal year we received revenue sharing funds for:

	<u>Rec'd for FY 03</u>	<u>If cut 25%</u>
Road Maintenance	\$ 8,122.00	\$ 6,091.00
Hospital	\$37,672.00	\$ 28,254.00
Health Facilities	\$ 3,615.00	\$ 2,711.00
Non-restricted	<u>\$56,518.00</u>	<u>\$ 42,389.00</u>
Total	\$105,927.00	\$ 79,444.00

- **Safe Communities Program receipts:**

	<u>For FY 03</u>	<u>If cut 25%</u>
Total	\$81,308.00	\$ 60,981.00

These funds are required to be used for police protection, fire protection and emergency medical services, water and sewer services not offset by user fees, or solid waste management. Petersburg has traditionally used these funds only for its police, fire and EMS services.

Ted Smith

TED SMITH, MAYOR OF PETERSBURG
PO BOX 841
PETERSBURG, AK

**Public Comment
Senate Finance Committee
Concerning the Operating Budget
Submitted Thursday, April 16, 2003
By Donald E. Roberts Jr.
Kodiak, Alaska**

RECEIVED
APR 17 2003

Good evening Mr. Chairman.

My name is Don Roberts; I live in Kodiak.

I would like to thank the Republican Party leadership for allowing me to participate in their facade of democracy; Martha Stewart would be proud of what they've done with a few mirrors and a bit of smoke.

I have a few ~~of~~ ideas that might help - the first is that you do away with the entire legislative building and rent a drawer for all of your rubber stamps. (Some civic-minded person might be willing to donate closet space for such a purpose.) Party leaders could call in their underling's votes for them and legislators wouldn't have to pull away from high-level lobbyist's jaunts just to attend to the people's business.

Here's another, you could give people the public comments you want them to make and provide legislators with appropriate questions. It would at least appear that legislators were indeed interested in the public's concerns and knew something about the topic of discussion.

Here's my last, and perhaps my best, idea: keep your caucuses away from my representatives. Their job is to speak for the people of Kodiak as a whole. We do not need party approval to bring our collective voice to the rest ~~of the people~~ of Alaska.

Intervention in the people's business is subversion by definition.

###

From the Alaska State Constitution: Article 1, Section 2. Source of Government. **All political power is inherent in the people. All government originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the people as a whole.**



RECEIVED
APR 17 2003

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN
committee on SB35, dated April 16, 2003.
bill/subject committee name

I am Whit Aillaud, president of the teachers association of the Delta/Greeley School District.

Schools in Alaska are well past the point where budget cuts to education can be absorbed without a loss in service. At the same time, school employees are doing everything humanly possible to meet new education standards required by state and federal law. Cuts in education funding will result in larger classes, reduced material needed for instruction and demoralized staff.

Now is the time to step up to the plate and do what is right and fully fund education. Fully funding education means

Signed:

~~Testifier~~

~~Representing (Optional)~~

~~Address~~

~~Phone No.~~

→ see page 2



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the see page 1 for this information
 committee on _____, dated _____
 committee name
 _____, dated _____
 bill/subject

appropriating all that was budgeted in 2003 plus inflation. Teachers in Delta and across Alaska are not stupid. We know anything less means you are not interested in positive education growth, but rather, you are only interested in education as an issue for re-election.

Signed: [Signature] (Whit Aillaud)
 Testifier
 Delta / Greek Education Association
 Representing (Optional)
 P.O. BOX 1245, Delta, AK 99737
 Address
 (907) 895-4286
 Phone No.

**THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES**

Citizens Against Gambling Expansion

Stop Video Poker and Slots in Alaska! Stop HB240 and SB186

RECEIVED
APR 17 2003

To:

Governor Frank Murkowski
Lieutenant Governor Loren Leman

Senator Con Bunde
 Senator John Cowdery
 Senator Betty Davis
 Senator Fred Dye
 Senator Jobmay Ellis
 Senator Kim Elton
 Senator Holms French
 Senator Lyda Green
 Senator Gretchen Guess
 Senator Lyman Hoffman
 Senator Georgiana Lincoln
 Senator Scott Ogan
 Senator Donny Olson
 Senator Ralph Seckins
 Senator Ben Stoyens
 Senator Gary Stevens
 Senator Robin Taylor
 Senator Guss Theriault
 Senator Thomas Wagner
 Senator Gary Wilken

Representative Tom Anderson
 Representative Brian Berkowitz
 Representative Mike Chenaux
 Representative Sharon Cisna
 Representative John Coghill
 Representative Harry Crawford
 Representative Eric Croft
 Representative Nancy Dahlstrom
 Representative Hugh "Bud" Fato
 Representative Richard Fortier
 Representative Les Getz
 Representative Carl Gatte
 Representative Max Greenberg
 Representative David Guttenberg
 Representative John Harris
 Representative Mike Hawker
 Representative Cheryl Heine
 Representative Jim Holm
 Representative Reggie Jovic
 Representative Mary Kapner

Representative Beth Kertula
 Representative Vic Kohring
 Representative Albert Kookesh
 Representative Peter Kost
 Representative Bob Lynn
 Representative Beverly Masok
 Representative Leal McGuire
 Representative Kevin Meyer
 Representative Carl Morgan
 Representative Carl Moses
 Representative Norman Rakerberg
 Representative Ralph Sarnecki
 Representative Paul Seaton
 Representative Bill Stoffa
 Representative Bruce Weybrauch
 Representative Jim Whitaker
 Representative Bill Williams
 Representative Peggy Wilson
 Representative Kelly Wolf

Mr. Larry Meyers (Gaming Unit)
Mr. Jeff Prather (Gaming Unit)

From: Robert Rawl (Print Name)

Community: _____

Phone Number: 244-7507

Date: April 2003

I am against Video Poker, Slot Machines and other Gaming Machines because:
of all the negative things it brings with it,
divorce, bankruptcy, suicide, theft, loan
sharking. Also the lack of homework and knowledge
exhibited by the current gaming laws doubt
as to the competency and efficiency of future
decisions.

Robert M. Rawl
Sign Name

CAGE
CAGB@kpnnet.net

Citizens Against Gambling Expansion

Stop Video Poker and Slots in Alaska! Stop HB240 and SB186

RECEIVED
APR 17 2003

To:

Governor Frank Murkowski
Lieutenant Governor Loren Leman

Senator Con Bando
 Senator John Cowdery
 Senator Bettye Davis
 Senator Fred Dyson
 Senator Johnny Ellis
 Senator Kim Eklon
 Senator Hollis French
 Senator Lyda Green
 Senator Grotshen Gustafson
 Senator Lyman Hoffmann
 Senator Georgianna Jacobson
 Senator Scott Ogan
 Senator Donny Olson
 Senator Ralph Semkins
 Senator Ben Stevens
 Senator Gary Stevens
 Senator Robbin Taylor
 Senator Gene Theriault
 Senator Thomas Wagoner
 Senator Gary Wilton

Representative Tom Anderson
 Representative Ethan Berkowitz
 Representative Mike Chensult
 Representative Sharon Cusack
 Representative John Coghill
 Representative Henry Crawford
 Representative Eric Croft
 Representative Nancy Dahlstrom
 Representative Hugh "Bud" Fale
 Representative Richard Foster
 Representative Les Gars
 Representative Carl Gatto
 Representative Max Gruenberg
 Representative David Guttenberg
 Representative John Harris
 Representative Mike Hawker
 Representative Cheryl Heinze
 Representative Jim Holm
 Representative Reggie Jouis
 Representative Mary Kapoor

Representative Beth Kartulis
 Representative Vic Kohring
 Representative Albert Kookash
 Representative Pete Kott
 Representative Bob Lynn
 Representative Beverly Masch
 Representative Lesil McGuire
 Representative Kevin Meyer
 Representative Carl Murgan
 Representative Carl Moser
 Representative Norman Rakeberg
 Representative Ralph Sermola
 Representative Paul Sator
 Representative Bill Stolmo
 Representative Bruce Weybrauch
 Representative Jim Whitaker
 Representative Bill Williams
 Representative Peggy Wilson
 Representative Kelly Wolf

Mr. Larry Moyes (Gaming Unit)
Mr. Jeff Prather (Gaming Unit)

From: Lisa Alty (Print Name)

Community: Anchorage

Phone Number: 907-677-1644

Date: April 2003

I am against Video Poker, Slot Machines and other Gaming Machines because:

These are very addictive and will cause
community problems. Not to mention the people
that will be affected by this. Do we really need
the headaches is it worth it? And personally
it will probably cost me my job

Lisa M. Alty
 Sign Name

CAGE
 CAGE@kprunet.net

Citizens Against Gambling Expansion

Stop Video Poker and Slots in Alaska! Stop HB240 and SB186

RECEIVED

APR 17 2003

To:

Governor Frank Murkowski
Lieutenant Governor Loren Leman

Senator Con Bunde
 Senator John Cowdery
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 Senator Fred Dyson
 Senator Johnny Ellis
 Senator Kim Elton
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 Senator Lyman Hoffmann
 Senator Georgiana Lincoln
 Senator Scott Ogan
 Senator Dorey Olson
 Senator Ralph Seelins
 Senator Ben Stevens
 Senator Gary Stevens
 Senator Robin Taylor
 Senator Gene Tharntault
 Senator Thomas Waggoner
 Senator Gary Wilson

Representative Tom Anderson
 Representative Ethan Berkowitz
 Representative Mike Chenault
 Representative Sharon Clark
 Representative John Coghill
 Representative Harry Crawford
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 Representative Hugh "Bud" Fato
 Representative Richard Foster
 Representative Les Gara
 Representative Carl Gatto
 Representative Max Grunberg
 Representative David Gustenberg
 Representative John Harris
 Representative Miles Hawker
 Representative Cheryl Heinze
 Representative Jim Holm
 Representative Reggie Jouis
 Representative Mary Kapsner

Representative Beth Kertula
 Representative Vic Kohring
 Representative Albert Kookesh
 Representative Pete Kou
 Representative Bob Lynn
 Representative Beverly Mack
 Representative Leail McGuire
 Representative Kevin Meyer
 Representative Carl Morgan
 Representative Carl Moses
 Representative Norman Koberberg
 Representative Ralph Samuels
 Representative Paul Boston
 Representative Bill Stolten
 Representative Bruce Weybrauch
 Representative Jim Whitaker
 Representative Bill Williams
 Representative Peggy Wilson
 Representative Kelly Wolf

Mr. Larry Meyers (Gaming Unit)
Mr. Jeff Prather (Gaming Unit)

From: Scott McBride (Print Name)

Community: Anchorage

Phone Number: 770-5444

Date: April 2003

I am against Video Poker, Slot Machines and other Gaming Machines because:

The cost to the community is greater than the money raised

Scott J McBride
Sign Name

CAGE
CAGE@arpust.net



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 35 & SB 36, dated April 15, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

I was very discouraged to learn that you do not support the continued health of the University of Alaska. Surely you must realize how essential higher education is to your constituents & your communities. Major businesses, such as Kmart have been closing down. Where are these individuals able to go for retraining? The University has done an exceptional job of changing (improving) its reputation, and the increased enrollment numbers are proof positive that they are succeeding. More and more young people are choosing to remain in state, rather than take their money & that of their parents out of state to contribute to the economy elsewhere. Reward the University by supporting their budget requests.

Signed

Testifier Carrie M. Burford

Representing (optional)

PO Box 2791, Soldotna, AK. 99669

Address

(907) 262-0331

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 35 & SB 36, dated April 15, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

Education of all Alaskans is the most important thing we can do to promote development of Alaska's economy. If Alaskans are not educated others will get the jobs and create economic growth in our state. Every Year we do not fund the Educational needs of Alaskans puts us further behind economically.

Signed: _____

Testifier: Donna C. Cook

Representing (optional) Self

Address P.O. Box 2629, Soldotna, Alaska

Phone number 907-252-4764



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 35 & SB 36, dated April 15, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

The budget is already WAY TOO Low. Do not decrease the budget, or you risk losing students to better funded schools. Do not fall into the same hole that K-12 public education has already fallen into.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Berg".

Testifier

Nick Berg

Representing (optional)

266 Redwood Ct. Soldotna Alaska 99669
Address

907 262 6064
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 35 & SB 36, dated April 15, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

The children of Alaska are our greatest natural resource we need to be increasing education budgets across the board at all levels K-college. This should be our number one priority, not increasing legislative pay or wasting money trying to move the capital to Anchorage. It is imperative that our children and young adults be given every opportunity to get a proper education in Alaska. That is the only way to keep them in Alaska for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Signed:

Jacqueline Blum
Testifier

Representing (optional)

101 Walker Lane

Address

283-8197

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 35 & SB 36, dated April 15, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

To whom it may concern,

As a full time biology student at KPC I am extremely saddened to hear that our funding could be taken from us. We are Alaska's future, please don't ignore our stories. We can't be hushed on this issue will are strong in numbers and strong in opinions.

Signed:

Laura Sauremildt
Testifier

Representing (optional)

399 Lovers Lane Soldotna AK 99669
Address

262-8781

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 35 & SB 36, dated April 15, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

If our state is to have any future we need to keep our youth in this state. There are no excuses for not having an educational system where ^{all} our students pick the U.A. system as their first choice. Students choose to be educated outside then don't bother to return, why? Let's stop putting Alaska at the bottom of the educational barrel, support our university system! Thank you

Signed: Lane Lewis Means
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P O Box 1363 Kenai AK 99111
Address

907-283-1907
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 35 & SB 36, dated April 15, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

To keep up our educational standards we need to increase finances for colleges not decrease them. Don't decrease UAA's budget.

Signed: DONITA L. PETER
Testifier

Representing (optional)

37155 Hillcrest St., Soldotna AK 99669
Address

1398-6304

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 35 & SB 36, dated April 15, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

Being physically isolated from the rest of the United States makes achieving a decent education hard enough. Having our funding cut will only make matters worse. Everything here is more expensive. Our budget should represent that inflation.

Signed: 
Testifier

Representing (optional)

Address

Phone number

ROSALEE T. WALKER

1220 Glacier Ave., #208

Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 586-2873

TESTIMONY REGARDING THE LONGEVITY BONUS PROGRAM

My name is Rosalee T. Walker, and I have been a resident of Juneau, Alaska for 37 years. I come to you today as a member of the Board of Directors for the Older Persons Action Group (OPAG), and as the president of the AARP Mount Juneau Chapter #865. Both of these organizations oppose the elimination of the Longevity Bonus Program.

The Senate Finance Committee's elimination of the Longevity Bonus Program is a great disappointment to all Alaskan senior citizens. Consequently, we respectfully ask that you reconsider your actions and reinstate the Longevity Bonus Program in your budget. It is our strong assertion that the Administration's proposal was put forth in haste, and, it did not provide you with vital information that would have helped you to make a more responsible decision regarding this matter.

Alaska's senior citizens are painfully aware of the current state budget concerns, and we continuously work with all levels of government to help to seek effective solutions to budgetary problems. In its haste to eliminate the Longevity Bonus Program, the Administration ignored or failed to scrutinize

some alternative strategies that could be easily implemented in order to avoid a disastrous and devastating situation for the most vulnerable portion of Alaska's population. Seniors were not included when plans were being made to eliminate the Longevity Bonus Program.

Reinstatement of the Longevity Bonus Program in this budget would give Alaskan senior citizens an opportunity to demonstrate that there are more efficient ways to address the Longevity Bonus Program, ways that will not be so abrupt, impetuous and detrimental to the elderly population. The Administration's justification for the elimination of the Longevity Bonus Program is grossly inadequate for making a decision that would be reasonable, responsible, and fair. The legislature did not get good data.

Alaskan seniors are ready, willing and able to work with the legislature, the administration and longevity bonus recipients to explore alternatives to the elimination of the Longevity Bonus Program. Please give us an opportunity! Alaskan seniors do have the power, the skills, and the desire to make things better for our State of Alaska, all we need is a chance to prove it.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

My name is Marie Darlin and I am the Capital City Task Force Coordinator for AARP in Alaska. You have a copy of my previous detailed testimony on the Longevity Bonus and you have letters from the AARP Office in opposition to legislation repealing the bonus program.

I wish to speak on the importance of the Longevity Bonus for our seniors and want to reiterate a few facts for your consideration.

The main purpose of the bonus was to keep our seniors in Alaska.

1994 phase-out legislation made a promise to seniors - no more changes!

12,000 of the 18,000 recipients are over age 75 that receive \$250. Costs decrease at 3 million or more each year.

The economic impact on the state from seniors is well over 1 billion per year - most of it spent here.

Every dollar spent turns over at least twice. Therefore, the 47.5 million the Governor's bill saves takes 95 million out of the economy.

Seniors provide volunteer hours worth approximately 60 million per year and they give at least 20 hours per month of caregiver services totaling an equivalent of 6300 full time jobs.

In 1999 6,000 seniors lived on less than \$1,000 per month (poverty level) and the bonus provided 10% of the income for single seniors.

The longevity bonus allows our seniors to remain independent contributing members of our communities and is much less expensive than caring for them with the Governor's safety nets.

PLEASE LEAVE THE LONGEVITY BONUS IN THE BUDGET!



Marie Darlin - AARP



JUNEAU

230 South Franklin #206
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-1627
FAX (907) 586-1066

MEMBER OF THE
NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
PROTECTION &
ADVOCACY
SYSTEMS

RF

March 24, 2003

By Hand Delivery

Representative Kevin Meyer
Chair, Labor Subcommittee
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 513
Juneau, Alaska

Representative Mike Hawker
Chair, H&SS Subcommittee
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, Alaska

Re: **Labor Budget**
H&SS Budget
Grants for Independent Living Centers

Dear Representatives Meyer and Hawker:

I am writing to urge reconsideration of the proposal to eliminate \$619,000 in state grants for funding that helps support Independent Living Centers in Alaska. This is a great step backward for the state. The ILCs in Alaska educate Alaskans with disabilities on how to live independently and avoid institutionalization. I know this from direct experience. Not more than a month ago, a 54-year old woman with severe arthritis – and I mean so severe that this woman had not left her apartment in months – was able to receive an in-home visit from an independent living specialist from SAIL on how to convert her home so that she could continue to live independently. Her only other alternative is a nursing home, her resources and income make her ineligible for a Medicaid waiver. If she goes to a nursing home, her income and resources will be exhausted, until she will be financially eligible for Medicaid. This is a scenario sadly followed by many; this is one reason why 85% of all nursing home residents ultimately have their nursing home costs paid by Medicaid.

It makes no sense to cut a valuable, essential program like the services that Alaska's Independent Living Centers provide. It is tantamount to saying: "support institutionalization of Alaskans, because Medicaid will pay for it, but don't support Independent Living Centers, because Medicaid won't." I think there has been a lost sense of priority.

We urge that the State funding for ILC centers – money which the State more than recoups in reductions to its Medicaid budget in avoided nursing home care – be placed in the H&SS budget instead. From within that budget, the Department of Health and Social Services will be able to monitor and capitalize on the efforts of ILCs to minimize institutionalization and maximize independence of Alaskans with disabilities.

Very truly yours,

Robert B. Briggs, staff attorney

Cc:
Members, Labor Subcommittee of House Finance Committee
Members, H&SS Subcommittee of House Finance Committee
Joan O'Keefe, SAIL

Sam would you submit this email form in case I don't make it, please?

Subject: Sam would you submit this email form in case I don't make it, please?

Date: Wed, 16 Apr 2003 10:28:50 -0800

From: Doris Robbins <d Robbins@gci.net>

To: Sam Trivette <samtriv@gci.net>

TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

April 16, 2003

My original focus was to remind you that the Longevity Bonus in it's final settled-for-the-last-time form, was a promise that should be kept for seniors who pioneered this state. Let it finish dying out as the seniors age. It won't take long!

But what really gets to me is the total irresponsibility of cutting funding for infant learning programs and independent living centers. I figured through common sense you would restore that funding when you saw that it saves the State money.

If you aren't familiar with infant learning, it does miracles with babies who have this short window of time to make it to be able to regain some of the skills that normal babies have and it totally changes

the outcome of their lives forever! It can't be postponed. I have seen the result of this program, and it truly is a miracle work! It isn't that much money and it is mostly for qualified people to make home visits to direct mothers who do most of the work.

And I'm sure you realize that independent living centers allow people who use to be in institutions to become productive people. Both of these programs actually save money in the long run! Just the fact that it lets them feel human causes them to improve their abilities.

It got to me so much that I had to stop watching last night. I just can't understand what the governor thinks he is accomplishing! All I can figure is that he must have already retired but just hasn't quit yet.

He won't be there when the backlash against the majority party comes. He is not looking to get re-elected like the rest of the legislature so it's no bother to him.

I've already said how wrong I think it is to go back on your word and discontinue the Longevity Bonus when the people are so dependent on it. The budget is full of wrong things, education funding from Kindergarten through college is another one.

I think most people know "you can't get something for nothing" and are willing to pay tax.

Doris Robbins
PO Box 21011
Juneau, AK 99802
(907) 364-3267

April 15, 2003

W) 807-742-4322 (F) 907-742-4175

TO: SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
FROM: LARRY WIGET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SUBJECT: THE IMPORTANCE OF PUPIL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING



"To educate Alaska's children, they first must get safely to school. Consistent, safe and efficient transportation is vital to the education process. For years, the state has reimbursed school districts the cost of transporting students.

Districts decide how to provide that transportation. This year, 48 of the 53 school districts are expected to receive reimbursement for pupil transportation.

School districts providing student transportation now receive equal funding. Before 1998, not all districts were reimbursed for pupil transportation at the same rate. Anchorage, for example, was reimbursed at a lower rate. In 1998, Senator Dave Donley successfully sponsored a revision to reimburse all schools equally. Thanks to that amendment, all districts are now treated the same when receiving funds for transporting students.

Pupil transportation is not cheap, but it is essential. Money for transporting students frees up funds for the classroom. If the state did not fully fund these costs, districts would be forced to use classroom dollars to pay for getting students safely to school."

**-Source: Verbatim: Spring 2002 Education Report
Alaska State Senate Finance Committee**

April 15, 2003

W) 907-742-4322 (F) 907-742-4175

TO: SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
FROM: LARRY WIGET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SUBJECT: FULL FUNDING FOR K-12 EDUCATION

Senator Green, members of the Finance committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony this evening on the need for full funding for K-12 education.

Due to a prior commitment, Carol Comeau, Superintendent of the Anchorage School District, is unable to be here this evening to express to you directly her concerns about the governor's proposed budget and its impact on the Anchorage School District

It is the superintendent's belief, and the belief of all of us within the Anchorage School District, that the cuts to the education budget proposed by the governor "would absolutely devastate what we've been trying to do with student achievement."

The governor's proposed budget would result in a reduction of almost \$11 million in funding to the Anchorage School District. If implemented, Anchorage will lose \$3.4 million in Learning Opportunity Grants, about \$3.4 million for pupil transportation, \$3 million for bond debt reimbursement, \$150,000 for community schools, and approximately \$775,000 for tuition for wards of the court.

As others who have testified before you have surely stated, full funding doesn't just mean funding the foundation formula. Full funding means fully funding all components of the education budget.

In the words of our superintendent,

"Education is the ticket out of poverty. It's the ticket to a successful work force. It's the ticket to safe and healthy families where children are stable and strong. A lot of these cuts are going to hurt the kids and the families who can afford it the least. We want to raise the level of achievement for all kids."

Please support full and increased funding of education to ensure a quality education for our students and students across Alaska.

Thank you!

Cook Inlet Historical Society

April 14, 2003

To all Senate Finance Committee Members:

Senator Lyda Green, Co-chair (Fax: 465-3805)
Senator Gary Wilken, Co-Chair (Fax 465-4714)
Senator Con Bunde, Vice Chair (Fax 465-3871)
Senator Robin Taylor (Fax 465-3922)
Senator Ben Stevens (Fax 465-3872)
Senator Lyman Hoffman (Fax 465-4453)
Senator Donny Olson (Fax 465-4821)

Dear Senator:

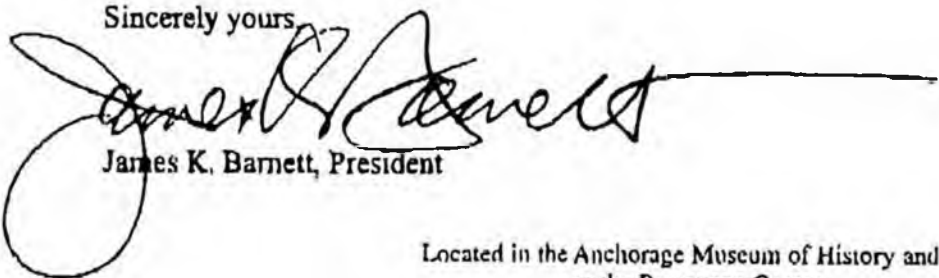
The Cook Inlet Historical Society urges you to restore funding the State Library and State Archives budgets. Restoring funds to the Alaska State Archives and State Library would ensure public access during regular business hours and provide at least a minimum service level for these organizations.

Public access to government records is a vital part of our democratic society. For example, citizens use government records to document their right to vote, apply for a permanent fund dividend, and to register for unemployment, health benefits, and other social services. State records help us understand the history of our state and nation, and they play an important role in the interpretation of our past. Open access to government records are central to maintaining a free and open society and one of state government's most fundamental and vital responsibilities.

In addition, the cuts proposed for the state library will adversely affect the historical collections and public access to the services and collections will be severely limited. Researchers traveling to Juneau to use the resources of the state library have a special financial hardship, as the hours of the historical collections that are already on reduced hours due to prior budget cuts will be further limited.

The Cook Inlet Historical Society members are asking you to restore the funds for the Alaska State Archives and State Library programs. State archives and libraries are vital government services that should be supported even in times of financial hardship. If I can provide further information to you and your staff, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



James K. Barnett, President

Located in the Anchorage Museum of History and Art
at the Rasmuson Center
121 West Seventh Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3696

TO:

Bob Durst**SENATE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE · 907-465-2187**

From: Bob Durst
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2003 11:58 PM
To: 'Representative_Kevin_Meyer@legis.state.ak.us'
Subject: HB 165 Retain Funding for Community Schools

Senate Finance Committee,

I believe it is important to look at how we "invest" our State's financial resources in program evaluation vs. looking at savings or cuts.

In our work session today, the Commonwealth North "Workforce Development Task Force" identified 1. Education and 2. Healthy Communities as two major factors relating to the development of a qualified workforce to fill jobs in Alaska by Alaskans. Community Schools is a cost effective program that is helping to achieve these goals and more.

Our Architectural firm did a major renovation at Creekside Park Elementary School in East Anchorage. When we first saw the old school it was boarded up with plywood and covered with graffiti. The Park next door was in sad disrepair and a haven for undesirables. A "crack" house was reportedly across the street from the school. We designed the renovation for the building and painted a picture as to what the school could be as a "center" of community. The Principal took us seriously and charged the Community Schools Coordinator to make the vision a reality.

This past summer, the first "Spirit of Muldoon" celebration was held at Creekside Park culminating a rebirth of the Elementary School and Park. The old hockey rink that the District Maintenance would take down had been repaired and painted by the local "Gateway" Rotary Club. The rink will be resurfaced to support use in the summer for a game played on roller blades. Artwork created by an Artist in the Schools grant gives a bright band of color around the freshly painted boards around the rink. A new shelter is under construction in the park along with irrigation for two new youth soccer fields. An exercise trail for disabled youth is being constructed as a pathway in the woods. A new Little League field has been constructed and the big baseball field with 300 ft fences has been rejuvenated. 150 people showed up last Spring for a Day of Caring to clean, grub and put a shine back on Creekside Park. All of these projects including a Master Plan for Creekside Elementary and Park was coordinated by Creekside Community Schools which was recognized and received the "Good Neighbor" award at the Heart of Anchorage ceremonies last year.

Today the "crack" house has been purchased and renovated by one of the teachers at the school. This is more than a K-8 school that shuts down at 3pm...there are educational and recreational programs for students after school, and in the evening Community Schools offers a wide range of classes for adults in the community. The school no longer shuts down in the summer...it has become a center for youth and adult programs throughout the year.

To maximize utilization of our community's major capital cost facilities, we need an active Community Schools Program to transform these expensive facilities into "Lifelong Learning, Recreation and Community Centers. We need this "funded" staffing to coordinate the writing and administration of grants, coordinate community volunteers, and coordinate public use of our "public" facilities.

This facility is a "model" for the "investment" of State funding in terms of its local impact on education and creation of a healthy community.

I am not a person that usually takes the time to write on issues but the loss of this funding will create a major negative impact on our communities.. Community Schools is a positive investment for our future.

Bob Durst

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Senator Gary Wilken	FROM: Anna Sappah Meeting the Challenge Campaign Board President
COMPANY: Alaska State Legislature Senate Finance Committee	DATE: 4/16/03
FAX NUMBER: 1-907-465-4714	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 2
PHONE NUMBER: 1-800-451-5501	SENDER'S PHONE NUMBER: 907-277-8796
RE: Substance abuse budget issues	SENDER'S FAXNUMBER: 907-258-7175

URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

My name is Anna Sappah. I am a recovering addict from Anchorage. I am a member and Board President of the Meeting the Challenge Campaign. We are recovering addicts and alcoholics who have benefited from participating in treatment for substance abuse problems. I was an active addict from the age of 12 until I was 33. I am Alaska Native. I am the 3rd generation of addict/alcoholics in my family. My last drug of choice was heroin. I completed treatment in April 1995. I celebrated 8 years clean on April 2nd of this year. Before treatment I was a drain on my community and its resources. The money spent in terms of welfare I collected, Medicaid, court costs, domestic violence, child welfare issues, food banks support, etc... is mind-boggling. I am now a productive member of society. I am employed full time. I am co-owner of a guide service on the Kenai. I am able to parent my own children without state assistance. I am now of service to my community rather than a detriment to it. This is all possible because I had the opportunity to participate in, and complete drug treatment. I learned life skills and resources to help me learn how to live clean. I had never been able to achieve prolonged abstinence on my own prior to treatment.

I encourage you to please not make any further cuts to the substance abuse treatment budget. The short-term savings of these cuts are negligible in comparison to the rising cost of incarceration, courts, welfare, child abuse issues, medical costs etc... In these uncertain financial times it seems to me that shortsighted short-term savings are irresponsible.

There is money coming in from the alcohol tax that was passed last year. In 2002, the establishment of the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Treatment and Prevention Fund offered a "gentleman's agreement" to put revenues from the alcohol tax toward treating and preventing substance abuse. . The Governor's FY 04 budget, proposes to use only a small portion of this revenue to increase prevention and treatment programs. The bulk of the fund, approximately \$13.5 million, supplants general funds. With the cuts to treatment in prisons (Corrections budget) and the \$1.6 million in reductions to treatment programs from increasing their local match requirement (SB124), the governor's strategy fails to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the creation of the fund. To supplant the general funds that were in place is morally wrong.

I met with several of you personally when I was in Juneau last month. I hope that you will please consider what I have said and believe that treatment does work. Even if people relapse after treatment, a seed gets planted. With the high rate of alcohol and drug problems in this state we can not continue to ignore the problem or hope that people will just quit on their own without treatment. If we don't provide treatment to those incarcerated we will continue to incarcerate them over and over at a much higher cost than treating them. If we do not provide services in the villages we will see the cycle of abuse continue to unravel the very fiber of the lives of our native youth until the entire native culture is obliterated.

Thank You for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Anna K. Sappah





Chugach Consumers

P.O. Box 101822 • ANCHORAGE, AK 99510-1822
e-mail: execdir@chugachconsumers.org • website: www.chugachconsumers.org

April 15, 2003

Senate Finance Committee Testimony (SB35, HB75) SOUTHERN INTERTIE FUNDING

I am the chairman of Chugach Consumers, a grassroots group of fiscally concerned Chugach Electric ratepayers. I also was on the Chugach Electric board (5/94 to 4/2000) and was board president (5/95 to 4/97). I was also on the Alaska Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ARECA) Board of Directors, Executive Committee, 1995-98. I have maintained an active interest in electric utility affairs since leaving the board (but entirely in a non-paid public interest capacity).

Chugach Consumers urges the legislature to support Governor Murkowski's action that returned \$27 million in accrued interest on the Southern Intertie to the general fund.

However, we are very concerned that Sec. 18(c) of HB75 passed by the House returns that money to the Railbelt Energy Fund rather than leaving it in the general fund. We urge the Senate to drop this provision or replace it with a clarification that the money remains in the general fund.

The Southern Intertie has long been known to be uneconomic and would have been abandoned years ago were it not for the deplorable suppression by Chugach management (for the whole project EIS process) of the major, credible, decisional document¹ on the economic benefits of the Southern Intertie.

My Anchorage Daily News OpEd and attached editorial recounts this history.

The Southern Intertie pays only 50 cents in public benefits for every dollar of cost and that is from old cost estimates. It is expected to yield an even lower benefit-cost ratio when updated or actual construction costs are known.

Chugach Consumers congratulates the Governor for his action on the interest money that stops public funds from being wasted in this time of fiscal need. Chugach Consumers encourages the legislature and AIDEA to recover the rest of the \$40 million Southern Intertie grant principal as well. This would make a total of \$67 million available from this dubious project.

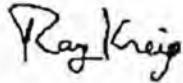
Chugach Consumers
Senate Finance Committee Testimony (SB35, HB75)
SOUTHERN INTERTIE FUNDING - 4/15/03

Page 2

If this money is reclaimed, Chugach Consumers believes it is crucial that it go into the general fund or be reappropriated to benefit South Central Alaska for utility or general government/school debt reduction (as opposed to being used for another new spending program).

Sincerely,

CHUGACH CONSUMERS



[SIGNED AND TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY]

Ray Kreig, Chairman
(907) 276-2025 fax (907) 258-9614 home (907) 243-8951

For more information please see:

<http://www.chugachconsumers.org/si.htm>

especially the background briefing:

<http://www.chugachconsumers.org/Lib/Int/Briefing.htm>

ENDNOTE

1. Samuelson, R., Hattis, S., 1998, **Ratepayer Impacts of Proposed Transmission Projects Final Report**; DFI-Aeronomics, 75 p. [marked "Client Confidential"]. NOTE: Released by vote of Chugach Board on 11/20/02, first available 12/6/02.

B-6 Friday, January 24, 2003 www.adn.com



Anchorage

Michael J. Sexton **Patr**
President & Publisher Senior Vn

Founded in 1946
Fuller A. Cowell, Publisher, 1993-1999 Kathie
Gerald E. Grilly, Publisher, 1984-1993 Lawrie

OUR VIEW

Southern intertie

*Good reason to question
this Railbelt energy project*

In 1993, the Alaska Legislature set aside \$46.8 million for building a second high-voltage power line between Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula.

Some important things have changed in the 10 years since then. Alaska's state government finances have deteriorated, and easy spending money has disappeared. Lawmakers routinely balance the state budget by drawing at least half a billion dollars each year from a dwindling savings account.

Another noteworthy change is that doubts have recently come to light about the economic viability of the proposed power line. A 1998 utility company study that was kept secret for four years concluded the southern intertie would produce barely 50 cents' worth of benefit for every dollar spent.

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reconsidering the matter. The intertie money was the final part of a political deal that triggered a splurge of spending on energy projects and subsidies starting in the early 1980s. Anchorage and the southern Railbelt would be denied their fair share of state-funded energy goodies, intertie advocates say. If this final project is not built.

The project's defenders say a deal's a deal, even if it means throwing good money after bad. The day when Alaska could get away with such a cavalier approach to spending money is long past.

But for purposes of argument, let's accept the basic framework of this supposedly unbreakable deal. Let's grant that regional equity requires the money to be spent to benefit the southern Railbelt. Let's grant that it has to be spent to supply cheaper energy. Let's even grant that it has to be spent on a particular type of energy, namely electricity. Granting all that, it is still not clear that the southern intertie is the best way to do it.

The money could be used to retire debt at the region's electrical utilities. It could be used to upgrade and repair the existing high-voltage power line between the Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage. It could be used to install a centralized power dispatching system, to ensure that the most efficient mix of Railbelt power plants is used to meet electricity demand as it fluctuates during the day and during the year.

The new Anchorage-Kenai intertie should, at minimum, have to prove that it is a better investment than those options. That will require an independent, rigorous look at the intertie's costs and benefits and how they compare with the alternatives.

Intertie II

*Is \$23 million of interest
money legally available?*

During debate over the proposed electrical intertie between Anchorage and Kenai, an interesting question has come to light. Just exactly how much state money is available for the project?

The state agency handling the project, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, says the available funding is about \$70 million. That's the original \$46.8 million that the Legislature set aside in 1993 plus another \$23 million or so in interest.

There's just one problem with that claim. The 1993 legislation that set aside \$46.8 million (SB 126) imposed certain conditions. One condition requires utilities involved with the project to agree in advance that they will pay all costs of the intertie over and above \$46.8 million. No legislation passed since then has repealed that requirement.

It appears that state law is clear: Only \$46.8 million of the appropriation is available to pay for the intertie. (Unless, of course, state lawyers can come up with a convincing theory that explains why the law on the books doesn't mean what it says.)

*The more utilities
have to pay for the
Anchorage-Kenai
intertie, the less
likely they are to
pursue it.*

This question is the kind that could make or break the \$100 million project. The intertie is an economically questionable investment that, even in the most optimistic analysis, produces minimal gain to Railbelt ratepayers. The more utilities have to pay for the Anchorage-Kenai intertie, the less likely they are to pursue it. In fact, project supporters are asking the Legislature to spend another \$30 million on it.

The powers that be in the Legislature and the Murkowski administration have shown no inclination to question the assumption that interest money is legally available for the southern intertie. But as critics of the project note, the legality of spending the interest money is one more important question facing an already questionable project.



Anchorage Daily News

Michael J. Sexton
President & Publisher

Patrick Dougherty
Senior Vice President & Editor

Steve Lindbeck
Associate Editor

Founded in 1946 by Norman C. Brown

Fuller A. Cowell, Publisher, 1993-1999
Gerald E. Gilby, Publisher, 1994-1993

Katherine Fanning, Editor and Publisher, 1971-1983
Lawrence Fanning, Editor and Publisher, 1967-1971

OPINION

MORE INFO:
www.chugachconsumers.org/sl

POINTCOUNTERPOINT Anchorage-Kenai intertie?

Intertie promises to provide affordable power to Railbelt

ERIC P. YOULD, *Alaska Rural Electric Cooperative Association*

A project to benefit Alaska and Alaskans for the next 50 years is moving forward, thanks to the vision and efforts of legislators and electric utilities.

The Southern Intertie, an important new link in the Railbelt electric grid, recently passed a major milestone with the completion of comprehensive environmental reviews. After a thorough and public environmental impact statement process, three federal agencies last fall issued records of a decision identifying a route along the Kenai bluff of Cook Inlet and under the mouth of Turnagain Arm as the preferred path for the new transmission line.

The intertie will be a new transmission line between Nikiski and Anchorage that will improve the reliability of the Railbelt power grid. However, its most important function will be to help move power throughout the region from where it's most economical to make it to where customers need it. All six of the electric utilities that serve customers in the Railbelt are participating in the project. All six are not-for-profit utilities working on behalf of their customers. The current estimated cost of the line is \$100 million. Approximately \$70 million of the project will be paid by a state grant made by the Legislature in 1993 from the Railbelt Energy Fund — set up in 1986 to invest in projects that benefit Alaskans throughout the state's most populous region.

With the EIS complete, attention now

turns to design and construction. If work proceeds on schedule, Alaskans may be taking home paychecks from construction by 2004 and the new line could be in service by 2006 or 2007. That might seem a ways off, but it's just around the corner when you consider the need for this project that has been in the planning since the early 1980s.

Infrastructure is vital to Alaska's current and future health and economy. A strong interconnected Railbelt electric system that allows power to be made economically in one area and moved efficiently to another helps ensure that individual Alaskans and the businesses that employ them have reliable, affordable electric service. The Southern Intertie will do just that.

Critical infrastructure is often ignored or taken for granted until something goes wrong or existing facilities are overwhelmed by demand. That's why it's so important to plan. The fact you can flip a switch today and have the lights come on doesn't just mean someone did something special today. It happens because Alaskans decades ago had the foresight to put an electric grid in place to make it happen. It is our collective responsibility to provide the same benefit to our children and other people who are the future of this great state.

Eric P. Yould is executive director of Alaska Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Southern Intertie's benefits likely not worth the cost

RAY KREIG, *former Chugach Electric board member*

Clearly the Southern Intertie has some benefits. The question is whether they are worth the cost. Are there better uses for \$125 million in public and ratepayer funds? History indicates that cost overruns are highly likely, totally at ratepayer expense.

Currently, power is on 99.975 percent of the time. How much is it worth to gain a part of that remaining 0.025 percent (two hours a year)? Utility boards, legislators and the public have no way of judging without fair, impartial and unbiased project economic advice from independent experts.

Of great concern should be a history of deceptive manipulation of intertie benefit claims by utility managers. When I was Chugach board president in 1996, we received misleading benefit-cost advice from management on the northern intertie (between Healy and Fairbanks). If Chugach had participated in that project, it would have cost our ratepayers \$600,000 a year.

We then insisted on a very detailed and comprehensive study of the benefits and cost of the Southern Intertie. We retained Decision Focus Inc. because it had performed several studies on intertie economics for the state. DFI found only \$58 million in benefits. Chugach management kept that February 1996 study secret from the public.

Meanwhile, unbeknown to the board, Chugach management supervised the same

consultant's preparation of another report issued for public consumption in March 1998. It conveniently claimed \$143 million in benefits — enough to show the \$125 million intertie cost to be barely justified. That was the only benefit information provided by Chugach to regulators and the public during the 1996-2002 environmental impact statement process.

Same consultant, two vastly different benefit numbers. What gives? In DFI's own words: "We believe our comprehensive approach (in the February 1998 study) is much more accurate."

In 1990, the state utility consumer advocate, Alan Mitchell, also found the Southern Intertie benefits to be only \$61 million to \$63 million. There is no independent third party that has found the benefits of the Southern Intertie anywhere near the \$125 million cost of this project.

Considering the deterioration that has occurred in Alaska's financial condition since the original appropriation in 1993, Southcentral utility boards and local governments should look very hard at the intertie and ask the Legislature to reappropriate the \$70 million in state funds pledged to the project. The money would better be left Southcentral Alaskans if used to reduce utility or municipal and school debt by \$500 per household.

Ray Kreig is a former president of Chugach Electric Association and served on the executive committee of Alaska Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Laurie Thomas
Alaska Infant Learning
Program Association

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Consequences of Senate Finance Committees Cuts and Intent Language:

- The result of this reduction is that statewide, 5% of children who experience developmental delays, or are at risk for them, may go without essential services.
- The proposed \$250,000 funding reduction represents a 5% decrease in State grant funding for Infant Learning Programs
- National studies have shown that for every \$1 spent on early detection and intervention \$4 is saved on the long-term delivery of treatment and support services such as special education.

The intent language proposed by the senate finance committee suggests that families who can afford to pay for services. This is already the case. We bill families for services and many struggle to pay. **If families are asked to pay more, or more families are asked to pay** they could be making choices between buying groceries and seeking medical attention *OR* paying for Infant Learning services. A majority of families would choose not to access services.

Since FY02 State grant funding for Infant Learning Programs has been reduced by 16%-- It does not make good fiscal sense to cut funding that will reduce future costs. It's like choosing to use a credit card over paying with cash---You end up paying considerably more in the long run!

Legislative Information Office
50 Front Street -203
5:45-6:30

FAX TO: 907 465 2187

Eva Lyn M. Casey
8480 Jewel Lake Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99502
907 243 8530 tel.

March 16, 2003

Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK

Re: FY 2004 Budget
& Longevity Bonus Program

Dear Senators:

With all the calls upon your time and interest by so many worthy programs on behalf of education at all levels, independent living for the disabled and early intervention to improve future life for the very young. I still must ask you not to take away the one safety net that allows those of us who are among the oldest--and often in many ways neediest--Alaskans keep some independence and dignity.

Several letters have been written and forwarded by FAX to your committee since the surprise given to us in the March Budgetary address. I can only hope that the messages given to you in and earlier to the House have received a reading.

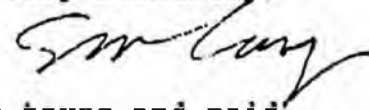
3/11 +
3/24

The reason almost none of the many seniors who are able and willing to appear in Juneau and at lio's have not had an opportunity to testify in the present round of public testimony is unknown to me. It is however quite frightening.

There are many people like. Circumstances and physical/medical problems present us from making personal appeals that the monthly checks that are a major part of our income not come to an abrupt end at the end of June.

We are not seeking to formally pauperize ourselves nor to join welfare case loads. Please do not forget us.

Very sincerely,



PS: Like many I favor personal income taxes and paid federal... or over 50 years

Please review testimony on Longevity
before House Finance Comm, Budget & Accounting

TO: The Senate Finance Committee
FROM: Susan J. Sciabbarrasi, Supt. of Wrangell Public Schools
DATE: April 16, 2003
RE: Educational Budget Cuts

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

A major portion of the Wrangell's lobbying this year pertained to educational issues because education is very important to our community. We are asking for **full funding of education**. That includes all portions including Learning Opportunity Grants (LOGs), pupil transportation, debt reimbursement, and community schools. In addition to those specifically mentioned in the budget, we are asking for **adequate and equitable funding overall in education** to compensate for prior flat funding. Public Education is being asked to "broaden their belts" by constantly increasing state and federal unfunded mandates (particularly NCLB act).

The City of Wrangell has long supported education. We impose a city level tax rate at 7 percent that is the highest in the nation. Therefore, Wrangell has been "tightening our belts" and increasing our taxes for years in order to adequately fund education to the cap. Our test scores have indicated that we have spent wisely because 84-87% of our students scored proficient or advanced on each section the 2002 High School Qualifying Exam. The community of Wrangell provides approximately one-third of the school budget but they will not be able to continue at that rate with additional cuts to the city budget. Wrangell Public Schools is cutting between \$700-\$900 thousand from our school staff and programs for next year. We are reducing the certified teaching positions by 29% thereby increasing our pupil teacher ratio and eliminating many elective classes that have proven to enrich the quality of the student's education.

Education was a major campaign issue and one of the top priorities for the governor as well as many legislators. It's difficult for me to believe that you would not uphold those promises of just a few months ago and take away our children's educational resources. In education we ask "Is it Good for Kids", if it's 'Good for Kids', who are our future, then it's the right thing to do to adequately and equitably **fully fund education**.

Thank you,

FAX TO: 907 465 7187

Eva Lyn M. Casey
8480 Jewel Lake Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99502
907 243 8530 tel.

March 16, 2003 *corrected
at 11:40*

Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK

Re: FY 2004 Budget
& Longevity Bonus Program

Dear Senators:

With all the calls upon your time and interest by so many worthy programs on behalf of education at all levels, independent living for the disabled and early intervention to improve future life for the very young. I still must ask you not to take away the one safety net that allows those of us who are among the oldest--and often in many ways neediest--Alaskans keep some independence and dignity.

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*3/11 &
3/24
and
3/28/03*

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We are not seeking to formally pauperize ourselves nor to join welfare case loads. Please do not forget us.

Very sincerely,
Eva Lyn Casey

PS: Like many I favor personal income taxes and paid federal... or over 50 years

*Please review testimony on Longevity
before House Finance Comm. Budget Rescission*

FAX TO: 907 465 2187

Eva Lyn M. Casey
8480 Jewel Lake Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99502
tel. 907 243 8530
March 13, 2003

Senate Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Yes on HB 11
No on SB 117/HB 158

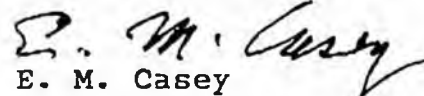
Dear senators:

The exchange between members of the House Special Committee on Ways and Means, in particular Representative Norman Rokoberg, and Revenue Commissioner Corbus that was part of the meeting held April 11th was convincing. HB 11 is a reasonable step. Its productive of funds in FY 2004 to help offset some of the drastic cuts proposed now and can be part of a plan over the next months to create a broader, less volatile source of revenue for the state.

Please don't eliminate any of the present economic engines that put cash into local economies, this includes monthly checks which make it possible for many of us over 71 to stay in our beloved Alaska and spend our incomes, whatever their sources, here.

If you have any doubts about the value of the Longvity Bonus program payments to seniors and to Alaska, please view the K200 video tapes of extensive testimony before the Senate State Affairs Committee. It is not just from recipients.

cc: House Special Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittees on Revenue, House and Senate
Very sincerely,


E. M. Casey

FAX TO: (907) 465 4156
(907) 465 3452
(907) 465 2935
(907) 465 3532

Eva Lyn M. Casey
8480 Jewel Lake Rd. #2
Anchorage, AK 99502

Re: Aleyska Central School

Karen Rehfeld, Acting Commissioner and
Director of Educational Support Services
Department of Education
801 West 10th St, Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801-1894

Dear Commissioner Rehfeld:

This letter is written by one of the many Alaska voters who had not heard of ACS until it became so threatened in the present Legislative Session. It is my hope that you are able to use the influence of your department, even though it is so beset with funding problems at all levels of education, to delay the execution of this unique and valuable Alaska educational asset.

The testimony of articulate and enthusiastic students and their parents in support of continuing their education with ACS has been most impressive and has caused me to learn more about the school.

By defeating the Governor's bill, funding ACS at its money-saving rate of expense for fiscal year 2004, time could be gained to seek another sponsoring organization or charter status and relieve the Department of Education of the responsibility as would appear to be the only reason for the bill before the Legislature.

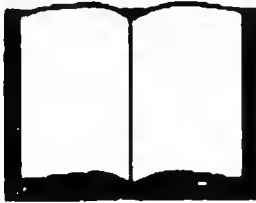
At present this is the only correspondence school whose graduates find their credits are accepted by universities nationwide; with courses taught by well-degreed teachers who have written the lesson plans and who are available to their students by telephone for individual help with lesson work; with school work graded by the instructors, not by parents; able to follow students being educated by mail when they move about the state, including seasonal moves for subsistence reasons. Comparable services are not offered by any of the other private or district programs which may consider ACS competition for students or dollars.

I have no personal or familial interest in the questions raised other than respecting and valuing good education for students at all levels.

Very sincerely yours,

cc: ACS
Governor Frank Murkowski





Rhonda M. Stuart
P.O. Box 273
Haines, Alaska 99827
907-766-2352 (voice)
907-766-2352 (msg and fax)

rstuart@aptalaska.net
rstuart@server.hbsd.net

Dear Legislator:

Education is receiving "lip service" from everyone - but true support is not evident. As long as legislators believe that they are "fully funding" education simply because they are providing funding according to a formula that is sorely outdated, education will never be truly fully funded.

I grew up in Alaska. When I was a student it was obvious that education was valued. Education was near the top of the state budget in allocation. Now it is near the bottom. The funding formula has not been updated to account for inflation or growing expenses for so many years that it would be laughable if it wasn't such a serious matter. Four years ago, I returned to Alaska for three reasons: to care for my disabled mother, to offer my talents as a teacher to the students of my home town so I can give back to the community and state that I love, and to return to the state that I have always loved.

I am a library teacher that can proudly put my library program up against any program and know that I am providing my students with a first class program that offers them many opportunities that will help them tremendously in their future. Studies show that a teaching library program raises reading scores. A teaching library program must be headed by a teacher that is also trained as a librarian. Students are taught vital skills that include information access, research skills, and search strategies. Students also have a specialist to turn to that reads and knows children's literature, someone that loves reading and children and knows how to help them develop a love of reading that will change their lives and make them lifelong readers. The teaching library program provides classroom teachers with much needed support: opportunities to team teach cross-curricular projects, a specialist to recommend books and watch for titles that work well with the curriculum, etc. The teaching library program also allows teachers to concentrate on core subjects while the library teacher covers many aspects of the curriculum that is tested on the state tests. This raises the level of education provided in both the library and in the classroom.

Now I am one of many teachers that is wondering, "Why do I teach?" Why do I keep working 50-60+ hours/ week for wages that are so low that I have not been able to afford the masters degree that I desperately want? In our district we have lost several teachers in each of the last 3 years. We are all stretched so thin that we can not keep our heads above water but we put in more and more extra hours to provide the best education for our students despite the fact that we now have more classes to prep for, fewer aides to help us, and we are now forced to do the lunch duties and duties before and after school. We are lucky to get 15-20 minutes to eat lunch and the extra things that we have done to help students (specialized study sessions and teacher tutoring after school, competitive reading programs, etc.) are no longer possible. This year we face additional cuts of 6 teachers.

In this day of technology and information access, both of the specialists that provide this training (library and computers) have been cut or forced into teaching core classes. If there is truly to be "No Child Left Behind" every school should have a specialist to teach these skills so there is a program in place that continually builds on the foundation of skills that is established so skills are expanded upon each year and students are given opportunity to reach great heights of success in these classes and in their core classes. Not only will our students be without these important classes, but we are struggling to find some miracle that will make it possible for the few remaining staff members to provide adequate supervision during lunches, etc. **We can no longer strive for excellence - we must strive to survive and settle for mediocre.**

All of this is happening while passing the high stake tests are becoming required for graduation and the "No Child Left Behind" requirements are looming. How can you expect teachers to prepare students for these tests and prepare to meet the new requirements in "No Child Left Behind" that doesn't recognize much of our training and experience? How can you expect teachers to do all of these things while they are being "kicked in the teeth" on a constant basis? Teaching is a calling. Most good teachers teach because it is who they are - they are dedicated to providing students with an excellent education. Teaching is central in our being. Now many of us are being forced to find some other way to make a living and let go of our calling. We will be forced to watch our programs fall apart and see our students suffer as a result.

When I was a child I was proud to be an Alaskan and I knew that the education that I received was second to none. I was well prepared for college and excelled in college. As a class valedictorian, people told me that it was a waste for me to go into education. They insisted that I should be going into medicine or law. My heart was in education. I wanted to provide children with an excellent education.

I am no longer proud to be an Alaskan. I struggle against the urge to wish that I had never returned to discover what had happened to education here. I am forced to look for whatever job I can find and feel like I am "stuck" here. I feel like I am letting the kids down but have no power to do otherwise.

Please throw out the crazy notion that education is "fully funded" with the current formula. Create a formula that will allow for the passage of time that it was neglected and then find a way to make sure that the formula adjusts for inflation. Show the students, parents and teachers in Alaska that you do care about education and that "lip service" is no longer acceptable.

Sincerely,



Rhonda M. Stuart

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
DIVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

PHONE: 772-3741

FAX: 772-3779

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: SENATE FINANCE

FAX: 465-2187

DATE: 4-16-2003

MESSAGE:

Laurie Bergen's written testimony

From SFIN MEETING # 7346

Hello, my name is Laurie Bergren from Petersburg. I am the mother of 2 amazing daughters ages 9 and 12, I am also the newest member of our school district's board.

I would like to briefly outline to you what the current level of funding for our schools means to Petersburg.

We are cutting 10% of our certified teachers. That leaves the remaining teachers stretched pretty thin trying to cover all the classes we are required to offer, not to mention the classes we would like to offer. We have been mandated to have "highly qualified teachers" in every classroom, however, this becomes increasingly difficult without the funds to keep the teachers we have.

We are cutting 15% of our non-certified staff or classroom aides. With the mandates in the NCLB Act sometimes an extra hour or two of aide time can mean the difference between showing adequate yearly progress or not.

Although we are trying desperately to maintain high standards for our students, our ability to provide meaningful classes is being eroded. Our high school day will drop from 7 class periods to 6 next year. Students will not have the variety and breadth necessary for the same quality educational experience.

We will no longer have full time librarians or counselors. I am not sure how to run a school that is supposed to prepare students for responsible citizenship and a continued life of learning without these very important people. Somehow, I guess we will have to find a way.

We have nothing budgeted for technology for next year. Now more than ever our students need to be fluent in the use of technology if they want to have a chance of making it out in the world.

We are not replacing textbooks that are older than the children reading them. I guess we can rationalize that they are getting an historical perspective when they read about the Soviet Union or advances in medicine that are already outdated.

We have cut the talented and gifted program, the bilingual program, the curriculum specialist, teaching supplies, general supplies and activities.

We still don't have a balanced budget.

Our operating expenses are skyrocketing. Next year even though we have cut staff the cost to maintain the existing staff has risen. Teachers salaries go up, and our mandatory contributions to the retirement system, workmans comp, and health insurance will cost us an additional \$80,000 next year.

We started the year with fuel costing \$1.15/gal, we are currently paying \$1.52/gal. It doesn't matter how many students or teachers are in the building we still have to heat it. We are estimating approximately 50% increases to our property and liability insurance. That money could have funded one more teacher.

Being the new member of the board, I learn new things at every meeting. Last night during a budget work session I learned a new term "maintenance of effort". We cannot show a decrease in funding to special education because we are required by law to show

a "maintenance of effort". This means we are mandated to provide services at the same level or more than last year. I believe that the citizens of Alaska have mandated a "maintenance of effort" when they elected everyone in Juneau that said they support education. It is time that education in Alaska truly gets adequate attention and money.

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
DIVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

PHONE: 772-3741

FAX: 772-3779

FAX TRANSMISSION

TO: SFIN

FAX: 465-2187

DATE: 4/16/03

MESSAGE:

April 16, 2003

My name is Suzanne Fuqua. I am the parent of two daughters, ages 9 and 12. I am extremely concerned at the proposed cuts to education. I feel there are many shortcomings in what is not offered now, at existing levels of funding, and can't imagine what else we will have to do without if further cuts are made.

We should settle for no less than we are currently offering our students. If the proposed cuts are made, we will not be able to maintain what we have. I think we need to INCREASE our budgets. Our K-12 schools have children lose out with the cutback of TAG programs, NO music and art teachers, less and less aids, and outdated equipment and supplies. Community schools need to function well and serve the many people who wish or need to further their education. The University system needs to offer enough to keep students in the state and attract students from out of the state.

Our children are our future. We hear it said all the time, because it is true. A country and state as rich as ours needs to take care of its citizens. All our children should be able to go to school and receive a rich education, not a barely adequate education, but a rich, and full, and developed education. More of our tax dollars should go to making sure this happens across our nation. In Alaska, maybe we need some tax dollars. I would be happy to pay taxes if I knew the money would go to helping the children and people who need the assistance and services.

I say no more cuts to education. Show us you are FOR our children, our education, our future.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Fuqua
Box 633
Petersburg, AK 99833

TRANSACTION REPORT

APR--16-2003 WED 07:50 PM

FOR: SENATE_FINANCE_SECRETARY 907 465 2187

SEND (M)

DATE	START	RECEIVER	PAGES	TIME	NOTE	M#
APR-16	07:49 PM	5865674	0	**' **"	BUSY	03

ATTENTION!

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

I WATCH A LONG LINE OF FOLKS
THAT CAME BEFORE THIS BOB BY AND
VOICING THEIR OWN PERSONAL BEST INTERESTS ON TV,
IS THE ONLY WAY TO GO. "WE NEED THE
MONEY MORE, BECAUSE" OF THIS OR THAT -

PLEASE DON'T CUT my FUNDING.

NOW WITH THE FACT THAT ALL THESE FOLKS
ON THE 'DOLE' HAVE NO PROBLEM PAYING
A LITTLE TAXES SO THEY STILL KEEP THEIR
PAYCHECK COMING EVERY WEEK PROVES MY
POINT IS THAT THESE FINE AND HIGHLY EDUCATED
FOLKS NEED TO WORK IN REAL WORLD OF 'PRIVATE
SECTOR'. YOU HAVE SOME TOUGH CHOICES - GOOD LUCK.

THESE A DIFFICULT DECISION I'M MAKING IS TO SAY
SORRY - I ALREADY PAID MY TAXES TO EDUCATION
IN ANCHORAGE, SCHOOL TAXES TO THE TUNE OF \$1800 -
WHICH IS WHERE MY PFD CHECK IS ALREADY GOING.
SO I SAY MAKE THE CUTS - NO ON INCOME TAX.
LET THEM GO - SOUTH - THEY ARE GOING TO LEAVE WHEN THEY GET WHAT
WILLIAM REINER / ANCHORAGE - 99502 / THEY NEED ANYWAY.
4-16-03 - 2130



**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE**
210 LAKE STREET, SITKA, AK 99835
Phone: 747-6276 Fax: 747-5807
Email: sitka_lio@legis.state.ak.us

DATE: April 16, 2003

TO: Senate Finance Committee

FAX: 465-2187

3 pages, including cover sheet

FROM: Jerry Kainulainen, SAIL

MESSAGE: for State Operating Budget written testimony. Thank you

Testimony April 16, 2003
Senate Finance Committee
State Operating Budget

Good evening to you. My name is Jerry Kainulainen. I am an Independent Living Specialist for Southeast Alaska Independent Living and a member of the Governor's Committee on Employment and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you about the value of independent living centers in Alaska. Independent Living centers assist persons with disabilities to live active productive lives in their communities. This statement is the major message in the mission statements of independent living centers across the nation, and is the basis of the Independent Living philosophy. Assistance to persons with disabilities is accomplished by providing information, advocacy, independent living skills training, peer support and services that allow persons with disabilities to live outside of institutions and move toward independence and employment. It is a very cost effective program when you look at the amount of money that is saved by persons with disabilities living in the community versus their living in a nursing home. Four Independent Living Centers across the state last year served 1805 persons with significant disabilities. 43 of those persons were living in nursing homes and wanted to get out of them. These persons were helped to make the transition from nursing homes to their own homes in their own communities. Depending on the city, nursing home care costs can range up to \$130,000 per person per year. Community based services are about one third of that.

It is estimated that if the \$619,000 state funds are not reinstated, two independent living centers in the state would have to close and the other two centers would have to drastically reduce services. The impact would be that 17 fewer Alaskans would be moved out of nursing homes at an estimated cost to the state of \$1.5 million dollars, and that 49 more Alaskans would have to go into nursing home situations at a cost of \$4.4 million dollars.

**Independent Living centers are cost effective programs. The figures speak for themselves:
\$619,000 or \$5.9 million. I urge you to fully reinstate the \$619,000 to the Independent Living
program.**

Thank you.

**Jerry Kainulainen, Independent Living Specialist
Southeast Alaska Independent Living**

Governor's Committee on Employment and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

**Testimony before the Senate Finance Committee (2 minute limit)
April 15, 2003
Stephen Cathers, Superintendent
Valdez City School District
SB35 The Governor's Budget**

My name is Steve Cathers. I am the Superintendent of Valdez City Schools. Thank-you for taking my testimony. As an educator, I hope to make a few general comments regarding the impact of budget cuts to education.

First of all, I appreciate the Governor's effort to contain state spending. If there is waste, it should be eliminated.

Education is not in the category of waste. My 22 years in Alaska education which includes extreme rural, large district, and mid-size municipality districts allow me to say with certainty that education in Alaska has been trimmed to the bone. A recent poll of superintendents from around the state revealed that virtually every district is cutting staff and core academic programs. Valdez, often thought of as a well-off district, has been cutting staff for two years and will probably cut four more positions this year.

The governor has provided strong leadership in promoting No Child Left Behind for Alaska. That lofty and correct goal for our children must be adequately funded. My request is that all cuts to education be restored, and that the base allocation be increased to allow for us to leave no children behind. The base allocation in the formula should probably be at \$4500 to provide adequacy that will make Alaska an educational role model among states.

SB35 includes cuts to education in various forms including Learning Opportunity Grants, Pupil Transportation, DEED, and School Debt Reimbursement. Make no mistake, every dollar cut from schools reduces classroom services to children. A cut to pupil transportation in Valdez where we have just begun a five year bus contract, will result in years of larger classes, less electives, less individualized instruction and remediation, fewer and poorer instructional materials, and less training for staff.

Most of us voted for this administration hoping for increased economic growth in the state. Economic growth industries in Alaska require skill sets developed in K-12 education. A work force of tradesmen with strong basic skills and good work habits will be the backbone of Alaska resource development. The alternative will be the current trend in the oil industry of importing commuter employees from the lower 48, who export our profits.

K-12 education is, by any measure, a sound investment. Children who are educated and productive citizens are key to our globally preeminent society. Cutting education in an inflationary economy means someone is paying the price. For several years, the staff of our schools has paid the price and are now increasingly difficult to recruit. Now I am afraid we have come to the point where it is the children paying the price. They will pay for our lack of adequate commitment to their future.

Please keep the campaign promises of education being a top priority for Alaska.



217 Second Street, Suite 200 ■ Juneau, Alaska 99801 ■ Tel (907)586-1325, Fax (907)-463-5480

To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Alaska Municipal League

Date: April 16, 2003

Re: Written background testimony on the state budget – **Survey of local economic crises and consideration of the economic impact of state budget cuts.**

Right now, many communities are at a critical economic crossroads. A great many communities are facing severe local economic hardships due to **depressed resource economies** and local impacts from national economic fluctuations. (See attached survey of community economic conditions.)

When local economies are stressed, jobs are lost and people leave. (For example, according to survey data, **Wrangell** has lost 22% of its population since 1994, and **Kodiak** has recently lost 400 local jobs and five processors. Even **Wasilla**, which is the fastest growing area of the state, reports flattening sales tax revenue which “will not allow the City of Wasilla to meet the demands placed on it by the population growth.”) A smaller number of taxpayers are left to deal with fixed costs such as school bonds, utilities, and basic infrastructure maintenance.

State reductions to programs like revenue sharing, school bond debt reimbursement, school operations funding, etc. have a further dampening impact on local economic recovery as communities struggle to keep local taxes affordable while maintaining services critical to residents and businesses.

The Alaska Municipal League and the Alaska Conference of Mayors **share your goal** of a balanced budget for Alaska. In fact, this has been AML and the Mayor’s top legislative priority for the past five years. However, municipal leaders and state officials must work together to ensure that state actions do not hinder local economic recovery.

AML/Alaska Conference of Mayors
2003 Municipal Fiscal Conditions Survey

The double hit of State cuts to municipal revenue sharing and new unfunded state mandates, on top of severe local economic downturns would devastate many local economies and communities

Summary of Current Fiscal Conditions already facing municipalities:

- **Moderate to severe local job and population loss** that reduce local revenue generating capacity;
- **Fewer people to pay fixed operating costs** of schools, utilities, bonds, etc.
- **Steeply increasing operating costs** for oil and other commodities/services;
- **Severe increases** in general liability and property and health **insurance**, and State provided **retirement** plans;
- **Loss of investment earnings**, and
- **State and federal unfunded mandates.**

AML and Alaska Conference of Mayors 2003 Fiscal Conditions Survey

The survey was faxed 2/25/03 and responses have been received from 59 cities and boroughs. The responses indicate **that most cities and boroughs are currently experiencing a deepening economic crises** and a growing need for stable state assistance to rebuild a sustainable economy. Clearly, **deep state cuts to municipal programs and increased state unfunded mandates will accelerate the economic decline and hinder the recovery of many communities.**

Municipality

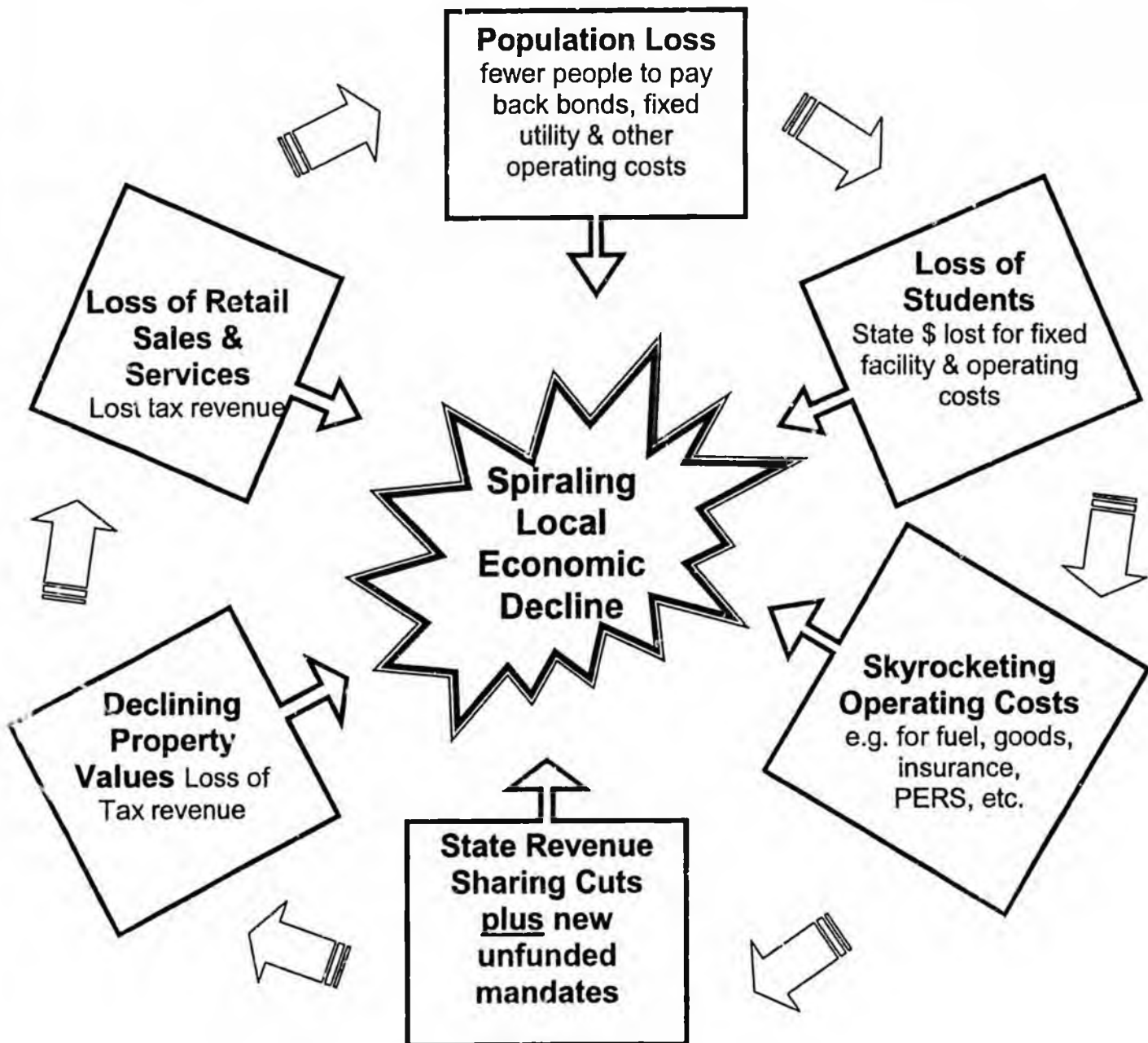
Economy

Municipal Budget

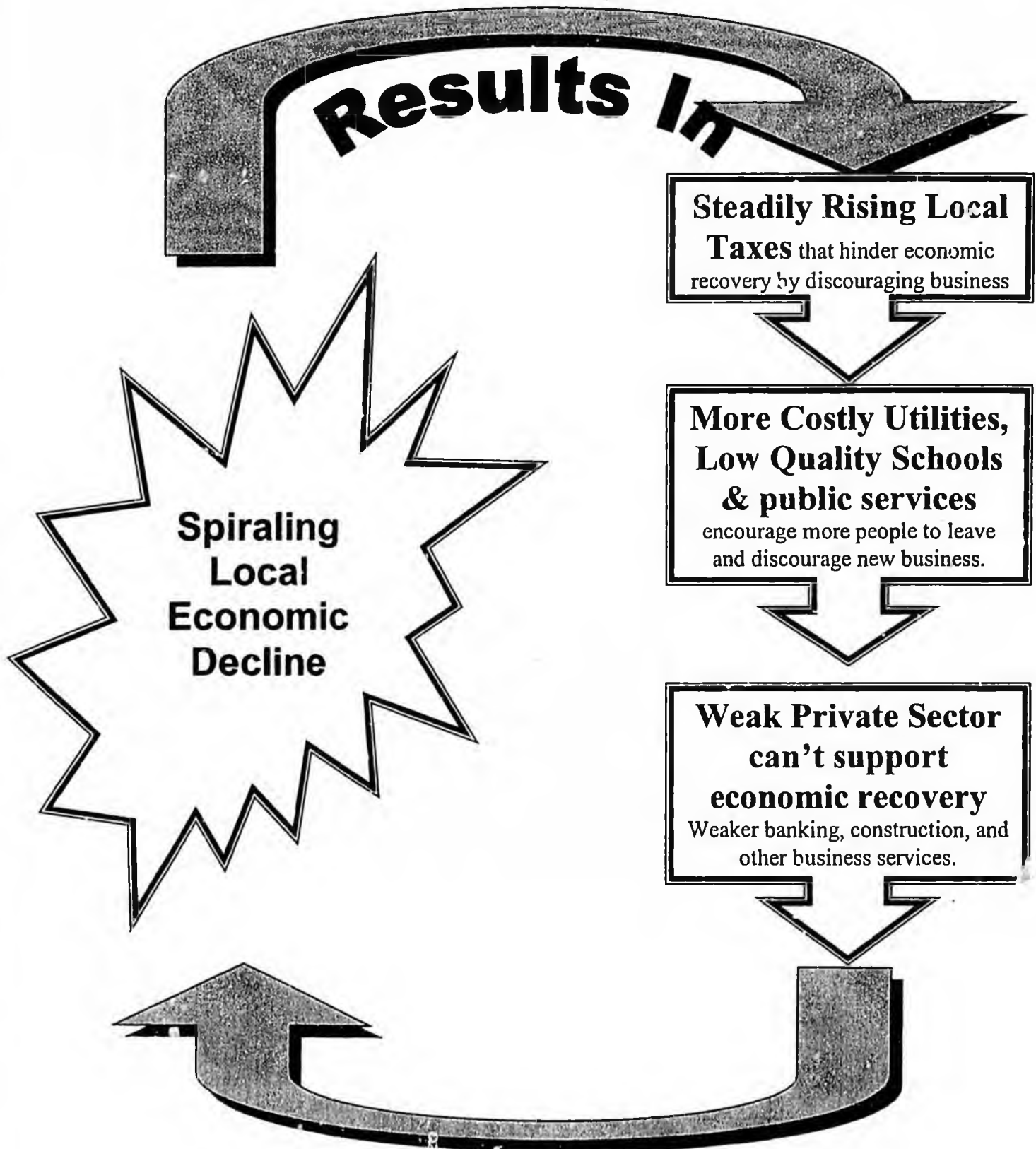
1. Haines Borough	drastic tourism, fishing, timber loss	families leaving, lost 30% of students, costs up
2. Denali Borough	tourism down, Usibelli Mine large layoffs	loss in accommodation tax
3. Lake & Pen. Bor	raw fish tax loss escalating, population loss	state revenue sharing cuts, staff cuts, some schools closed
4. Ketchikan Bor.	Loss of Ward Cove Packing, Ketchikan Pulp, EC Phillips, Gateway Forest Products, SE Construction	
5. Kodiak Isl Bor	over 400 jobs lost due to fishing downturn ,	lost 5 local processors. Borough & Schools down \$2.2 million next FY
6. Juneau Bor	revenue growth less than inflation	projecting significant shortfall this year, serious if revenue sharing cut
7. Sitka Bor	"economy is flat" population down	school shortfall due to loss of students
8. Mat-Su Borough	economy ok	\$1.3 million school budget shortfall and cuts to revenue sharing
9. NW Arctic Bor	zinc prices down + loss of local jobs	Gov budget cuts Borough \$1million more/villages lose \$73,000
10. Saxman	loss of community hall hurt revenues	"cut expenses to barebones & cut 2 positions... Please No more cuts"
11. Kenai	fishing downturn, loss of Kmart/other jobs	Kmart closure \$800K tax loss, tapping reserves too much
12. Seward	closure coal facility; less tourism, decline	shortfall due to insurance, fuel, declining economy, state cuts
13. Homer	loss of students in school district	55 teachers cut, loss of school programs
14. Kodiak	fishing downturn, over regulation	fishing tax is 60% of revenue, serious decline
15. Wasilla	loss of sales and sales tax	can't meet infrastructure needs of tremendous population growth
16. Selawik	"community has hit rock bottom"	"may have to go without police protection/other essential services."
17. Wrangell	so far, job loss 30%, population loss 22%	14% deficit in General Fund, already have highest sales tax in state.
18. Quinhagak	low fish prices	cuts in police, water, sewer
19. Cordova	fishing downturn	state revenue sharing cuts, low fish revenue, low earnings
20. Skagway	population loss	school funding loss due to declining enrollment
21. False Pass	fishing downturn & lost processor	Shortfall over \$60,000 this year.
22. Teller	construction projects	city "services at all time low"
23. Shageluk	economy ok	school shortfall
24. Nunapituk	fishing downturn, lack of jobs	school dist. \$4 million shortfall; minimum wage requires pay increases
25. Kotzebue	economy ok	community jail loss of \$328K, revenue sharing cuts

26. Port Lions	fishing & timber job loss, population loss	historic revenue sharing cuts, loss of "fire-police-clinics & roads"
27. Toksook Bay	fish disaster, so depend on revenue sharing	eliminate some employees and city services
28. Nuiqsut	downturn	lost 20 municipal jobs in last 3 years
29. Petersburg	local economic downturn	lower tax revenues
30. Alakanuk	fishing loss; unemployment at crises high"	"lower tax revenue, unpaid bills to city"
31. Savoonga	economy ok	
32. New Stuyahok	Bristol Bay fishery decline	budget shortfall
33. Houston	revenue sharing loss "serious impact"	budget shortfall if revenue sharing decreased
34. North Pole	need diversification	insurance and operating costs exceed revenue
35. Kasaan	Ward Cove and timber bankruptcy	population loss, loss of school
36. Kake	loss of timber and fishing jobs	federal funding loss, loss of students
37. Koyukuk	"state funding is a vital resource"	city staff paid by revenue sharing
38. Kaktovik	declining oil production	loss of school and municipal funding and jobs
39. Deering	economy ok	
40. Ouzinkie	fishing downturn	city and school cutbacks
41. Pilot Point	fishing downturn	lost fish tax revenue needed to fund budget
42. St. Mary's	dependent grants to complete budget	state reduces funding and services
43. Aleknagik	fishing downturn, 36 permit holders in city	"people unable to pay bills with the city"
44. Hoonah	fishing and timber downturn	loss of tax revenue, population - "maintenance and safety issues"
45. Angoon	fishing downturn	more state/federal unfunded mandates
46. Larson Bay	cannery closed, state asst. diminishing	budget shortfall due to lower fish tax, less PCE, higher fuel costs
47. Emmonak	fishery disaster "no one seems to listen"	cut employees, unpaid utility bills up, can't cut revenue sharing
48. Brevig Mission	"caribou ran off local reindeer herds"	shortfall because we are "shouldering more responsibility"
49. Delta Junction	economy ok	no shortfall
50. Ruby	losing population, costs up	revenue sharing critical, may "lose school and ...population"
51. Cold Bay	fishing downturn and higher oil prices	loss of fish taxes and state grants, need \$100K to replace water well
52. Atkasuk	"cuts jeopardize ...service and leadership"	school district budget cuts
53. Coffman Cove	timber downturn, high energy costs	50% of spending this year was reserves
54. Fort Yukon	economic downturn	teacher cuts, "rural communities cannot survive (big state) cuts"
55. Nome	"flat or nominal growth"	school district chronically underfunded
56. Unalakleet	oil costs "devastating impact," insurance up	66% this year, lower sales tax revenues
57. Huslia	costs of services keep going up	state cuts so "we the people suffer the consequences."
58. Port Alexander	"families here balance, no matter how precariously"	city operates on volunteerism, school shortfall.
59. Bethel	"at a cross-road that could go either way"	current shortfall \$467K, could go to \$700K next year w/no state cuts.

Spiraling Local Economic Decline in Many Communities Caused by Job Loss, Skyrocketing Operating Costs, and Accelerating Decline in State Shared Revenues with Communities and Local Taxpayers



How Spiraling Local Economies Hinder Economic Recovery



TO: HAINES

FROM: AK MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



217 Second Street, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801

Tel (907) 588-1325 • Fax (907) 463-5480 • www.akml.org

To: **Mayor and Council/Assembly**

& Manager/Finance Director/Clerk

From: Kevin Ritchie, Executive Director

Date: February 24, 2003

Re: **2003 Municipal Fiscal Conditions Survey - Please return ASAP**

Municipal revenue sharing and other programs to support municipalities are "on the table" for cuts now in the Governor's budget. Cuts could rise to the level of elimination that would have serious financial impacts on every community in the state. Such cuts could be especially devastating to local governments and economies on top of the fiscal crises already facing many communities. Therefore, AML would like to present the Governor with information on the fiscal conditions of municipalities. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey.

Name of Respondent Vince Hansen Title Interim Borough Manager

Name of Municipality Haines Borough

1. Is your community facing an economic downturn? No Yes If yes, please discuss the cause and extent. Drastically reduced tourism revenue due to lack of cruise ship visits this year. Reduced fisheries revenue. Downturn in resource development. Reduced to extent that jobs with family sustaining wages are no longer available and many families have left or are leaving the community.
2. Is your municipal government or school district anticipating a budget shortfall this coming year? No Yes If yes, please discuss the cause and extent. Reasons as listed above. 30% reduction in students over last two years with corresponding impact on schools. Municipal sales tax revenues are down, but costs are up (insurance, fuel, etc.). Also facing dramatic reduction in fish tax and port revenues.

Please FAX TO AML at 907-463-5480 ASAP

Thank You!



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Name of Respondent Dave Talavico Title Mayor

Name of Municipality Denali Borough

1. Is your community facing an economic downturn? No Yes If yes, please discuss the cause and extent. Fall in tourism numbers -

Local employer, Usibelli Coal Mine, lost a contract and had a large layoff

2. Is your municipal government or school district anticipating a budget shortfall this coming year? No Yes If yes, please discuss the cause and extent. _____

Fall in tourism affects our overnight accommodation tax.

Please FAX TO AML at 907-463-5480 ASAP
Thank You!

FEB. 25. 2003 12:38PM ALASKA MUNI LEAGUE
TO: LAKE & PENINSULA BOR

NO. 4645 P. 1/1
FROM: AK MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



217 Second Street, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Tel (907) 586-1325 • Fax (907) 463-5480 • www.akml.org

To: **Mayor and Council/Assembly
& Manager/Finance Director/Clerk**
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Name of Respondent Lake and Peninsula Borough Title Jeff Currier
P.O. Box 495
Name of Municipality King Salmon, Alaska 99613 Borough Mgr.

1. Is your community facing an economic downturn? No Yes If yes, please discuss the cause and extent. _____

DECLINE IN RAW FISH TAX REVENUES + RE: SOCKEYE SALMON
STATE FISHERIES TAXES
LOSS OF APPROX 1.5 million annually for past 5 yrs

2. Is your municipal government or school district anticipating a budget shortfall this coming year? No Yes If yes, please discuss the cause and extent. _____

Reduced STATE FUNDING, Reduced LOCAL FUNDING
STUDENT POPULATION DOWN, STAFF CUTS + SOME
Schools closed due to STUDENT NUMBERS

Please FAX TO AML at 907-463-5480 ASAP
Thank You!

FEB-25-2003 TUE 02:23 PM
FEB. 25. 2003 12:30PM

KGB
ALASKA MUNI LEAGUE
TO: KETCHIKAN GATEWAY

19072476625

P. 01
NO. 4645 P. 1/1
FROM: AK MUNICIPAL LEAGUE



217 Second Street, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801

Tel (907) 586-1325 • Fax (907) 463-5480 • www.akml.org

Mayor
Assembly
Al Hall - FIN
Mgr
Clerk

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Name of Respondent Alvin E. Hall Title Finance Director

Name of Municipality Ketchikan Gateway Borough

1. Is your community facing an economic downturn? No Yes If yes, please discuss the cause and extent. Borough has lost several million
to large companies from Plant closings + Chapter
II Filings. KPC, Ward. Core packing, E.C Phillips,
Southern Construction Gateway Forest Products, Inc.

2. Is your municipal government or school district anticipating a budget shortfall this coming year? No Yes If yes, please discuss the cause and extent. Borough
is unable to fund the school district at the
capex at the requested levels from the school district.
Cause major downturn in economic structure of
community, + less students.

Please I TO AML at 907-463-5480 ASAP
Thank You!