

**ALASKA LEGISLATURE**

**2641**

**HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 2003-2004**

For the record the following is a text of my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee on April 15, 2003.

Good evening Senator Green and members of the committee. My name is John Cannon, I live at 3101 Whispering Woods Dr, Wasilla. I am strongly opposed to the 2.2 million dollars in reductions to Community Developmental Disabilities Grants that were in the Governor's budget and in the operating budget recently passed by the house. These cuts are not fair, go too deep and seriously jeopardize the safety net for many Alaskans with DD. Frankly, these cuts were hastily arrived at by the new administration after a superficial review of services in our state. Some of you were in the legislature when our state closed Harborview. The significance of that event for persons with DD cannot be overstated. With the closing of Harborview, Alaska made a promise to its citizens with developmental disabilities that never again will any Alaskan, because of his or her disability, be sent away from their families, their extended families, their friends, and their home communities. The closing of Harborview meant that Alaskans with developmental disabilities were finally welcomed into the family of Alaska. It is a shameful and sad time in Alaskan history when our Governor and our House of Representatives say to citizens with DD that Alaska is going to break that promise. It is a disgrace when 1300 Alaskans who are waiting for needed services are told that the basic safety net of services will no longer be provided. In recent legislative sessions our State Senators have been the more reasonable voice of our legislature. With a brand new administration and so many new faces in our House of Representatives Alaskans with developmental disabilities are counting on the Senate's experience and reasonableness, now, more than ever before. These reductions will cause serious harm to Alaskans with DD and their families. It's up to you senators to do the right thing. Don't turn your back on this group of Alaskans. Restore the cuts to the community dd budget. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
John Cannon  
376-6063

**John & Sharon Cannon**

3101 Whispering Woods Dr.

Wasilla, AK 99654

(907) 376-6063

zeke99@gci.net

April 17, 2003

Senator Lyda Green  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

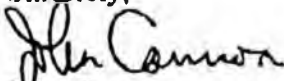
Thank you for taking time out of your incredibly busy schedule last week to return my call. I apologize for not being available when you called. The reason I wanted to speak with you is because I am gravely concerned about the current operating budget reductions to the Community Developmental Disabilities Grants. As stated in my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee on April 15<sup>th</sup> I strongly believe that these cuts will seriously compromise the safety net available to Alaskans with developmental disabilities and their families. All indications are that these cuts were arrived at by the new administration after a superficial review, if any, of the Community Developmental Disabilities services in our state.

My vocation over the last 20 years has been to support Alaskans with Developmental Disabilities to live successfully in the community. I have personally witnessed how these funds have helped hundreds of individuals/families avert crisis and avoid more expensive services such as those funded by Medicaid. The Developmental Disabilities community is willing to take its fair share of cuts however the level of cuts in the governor's budget and the operating budget approved by the House are not fair, go too deep and seriously compromise the existing safety net for many Alaskans with developmental disabilities.

Senator Green, it is critically important for you to know that the 2.2 million reductions to community developmental grants will jeopardize the health and safety of Alaskans with developmental disabilities. No where in the state is the need greater for these services than in your district. Of the 1300 Alaskans presently on the Waitlist for services at least 200 are Mat-Su residents. As Mat-Su looks to the future there may be even greater cause for concern. The Alaska Department of Labor forecasts that the population of Mat-Su will more than likely increase to 102,756 by 2018. Based on current and anticipated future need it is likely that the demand for DD services in the Mat-Su region will continue to increase substantially. Unfortunately, our community is growing at a time there is tremendous pressure to curb state spending.

On behalf of Alaskans experiencing developmental disabilities many of whom are the most vulnerable and innocent among us I ask your assistance in restoring at least 2.2 million dollars back into the Community DD grants. Even with these cuts restored if what we have been told is accurate there will still be in excess of 2 million dollars reduced from the Community DD grant BRU. Thank you for considering this most urgent request for your support. Should you have any questions related to the funding for Community Developmental Disabilities services do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
John Cannon

Senator Green - members of the France Committee —

I'm here to speak in support of Rabbit Creek Community School in Anchorage. This program operates through the Anchorage School District. It is the largest in the district, housing a School Age Child Care program, a preschool for 3 and 4 year olds, a Spanish language program at Huffman Elementary, an extensive youth/adult evening class program and a large variety of community activities for families. This program enhances student achievement in K-12 through tutorials in math, reading and writing; all of which helps the school district to meet the mandates of "No Child Left Behind." This community school also offers recreational opportunities - yes, the too often quoted use of the gym - but these opportunities are a small portion of the services offered.

I challenge every legislator to truly understand the broad scope of programs offered through community schools state wide. I also urge this legislature to maintain the \$150,000 for community schools which the Governor cut from his budget. Please restore financial support <sup>for</sup> community schools. I don't want Alaskan legislators known for "leaving children behind."

Linda Wetherby

Wetherby - Linda@asdk12.org

South Anchorage resident - Senator Con Bunde

Rep Hawker

## **Testimony of Alan Mitchell before the Senate Finance Committee**

April 15, 2003

Work Phone: 868-5659, Home Phone: 338-0963

Address: 11400 Mountain Lake Drive, Anchorage, AK 99516

Hello, my name is Alan Mitchell, and I am here to oppose any state funding of the Southern Intertie project, a duplicate power line between Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula. Your committee appears to support this position, as you have taken the \$27 million of interest earned on a prior Southern Intertie state grant and appropriated it to the Alaska Debt Retirement Fund. I commend you for that decision and encourage you to resist the House's desire to use the interest to further subsidize the Southern Intertie project.

There are two reasons why it is bad idea for the state to subsidize the Southern Intertie project. First, the project is not cost-effective. The credible cost-benefit studies of the project show that the project only delivers 50 cents of benefit for every \$1 of cost. With the cost overruns that are likely to occur, this ratio worsens. Given the size of this project, this represents a net loss to our economy of \$70 million or more.

Second, even if this project were cost-effective, there is no need for the state government to fund the project. The Railbelt electric utilities are capable of financing and building the project without state assistance. State grants only serve to distort the utilities' normal capital planning process.

In times of a state fiscal crunch, there are far better uses for the \$27 million of interest and the \$40 million of unspent money from the original Southern Intertie grant. Funding education and paying off school and municipal debt are certainly better uses for the money. I encourage you to stay the course and redirect Southern Intertie money into more appropriate government services.

Thank you for considering my testimony.



# Chugach Consumers

P.O. Box 101822 • ANCHORAGE, AK 99510-1822  
e-mail: [execdir@chugachconsumers.org](mailto:execdir@chugachconsumers.org) • website: [www.chugachconsumers.org](http://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 document<sup>1</sup> on the economic benefits of the Southern Intertie.

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

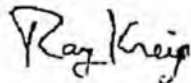
The Southern Intertie pays only 50 cents in public benefits for every dollar of cost and that is from old cost estimates. It is expected to yield an even lower benefit-cost ratio when updated or actual construction costs are known.

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.

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., Hass, 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.



# Anchorage

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Founded in 1946  
Fuller A. Cowell, Publisher, 1993-1999  
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Katherine Lawre

## 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.

*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.*

Together the shortage of state money and new doubts about the project's payoff suggest the Legislature might find higher and better uses for that \$46.8 million.

Some advocates of the southern intertie reject that notion. They claim the money is locked up tight — \$46.8 million plus interest — and there is no point in

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

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# OPINION

MORE INFO:  
[www.chugachconsumers.org/si](http://www.chugachconsumers.org/si)



## 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 completed, 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.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT *Anchorage-Kenai intertie?*

## Southern Intertie's benefits likely not worth the cost

RAY KREIG, *former Chugach Electric board member*



**C**learly 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 1998 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 1998-2002 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 \$51 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 benefit 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.

Dear Senator Green:

I am a board member for Four Valleys Community School in Girdwood and have been for almost every year since 1981. The community school is virtually used in one way or another by almost everyone in our community. It is the cement that holds the Girdwood population together. Through the years I have taught preschool classes, science classes for elementary and junior high ,coached XC running and track, organized and run Science Olympiad, organized and directed a summer science camp for 11 years, etc. I am not unusual , many many people give their time and talents through the community school to make Girdwood a better place.

**Please do not cut funding to the community schools.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sherry Dugan  
783-2716  
Girdwood resident since 1978

RECEIVED

APR 16 2003

L10. Fairbanks: #56-3346

RECEIVED

APR 16 2003

10 April 2003

Members of the Legislative Assembly  
State of Alaska

Reference: Constituent Recommendations for Legislative Action

Dear Alaskan Legislators:

Please take a few minutes to consider the following suggestions from the undersigned Alaskan voter:

I. REVENUE ENHANCEMENT/RETENTION PROPOSALS:

- A. Revive state income tax and
- B. State sales tax for all purchases excepting essentials. Try to look beyond voter dislike of these essential taxes and do your job to properly fund state governmental operations. The voters know when you act out of principle -- and also when you simply accede to voter antipathy.
- C. "Means-test" for Permanent Fund eligibility, then restrict dividend payments to those proving earnings at or below poverty line and let the rest of us forgo this lovely monetary treat until we can afford to pay ourselves such unearned and unnecessary bonuses.
- D. Assuming you can't/won't fight for an income tax or/and sales tax, please do something about a schools support tax of some kind for all state residents. (I live in Delta Jct., so pay nothing toward our schools, policing, fire protection, etc., etc. Lucky I, eh? But this is obviously unfair to all who are attached to organized boroughs/municipalities and subject to property taxes.)
- E. Do support state gasoline tax increase. I would also recommend incremental gross vehicle weight registration and licensing fees increase.
- F. Save a few million dollars of PFD distributions by creating a law to sever automatically and immediately all eligibility for PFD for any person convicted of DUI or of committing any other criminal act under influence of controlled substance.

II. INCREASE M&O FUNDING FOR DOTPF

- A. Please give serious consideration to adding substantial budgetary funding to Dept. of Transp. & PF, with the new funds dedicated to M & O work on all state roads. (Some of us have been begging for years and decades for help from DOT for "orphaned" state roads built to DOT standards, but never accepted for maintenance, due to insufficient legislative M & O funding.) I would further submit that the frustrating hodge-podge of road maintenance responsibilities (state, boroughs, municipalities, Native villages, Service Districts, etc.) should be resolved and replaced by state DOTPF, the real professionals of our transportation system. There are really not so many miles of "orphaned" state/borough/Native roads out

there as would make this supplemental funding proposal unmanageable to you legislators.

### III. REVENUE NEUTRAL

- A. Please consider a prohibition of multiple automotive headlamps (beyond the standard two) illuminated against oncoming vehicles on our roads. Wiring such additional lights through the low-beam circuits would stop the vulgar, painfully bright onslaught of candlepower by thoughtless drivers. (Professional drivers, such as commercial truckers, State Troopers, etc., never use multiple headlamps against oncoming drivers.)
- B. Pro-saving, pro-family/education suggestion:  
Let's consider "subsidizing" private sector savings by offering tax-deferral on PFD payments deposited to a dedicated education or retirement account in commercial bank. Surely federal Treasury people could cooperate in this worthy plan. And should we cry great tears over PFD money losses to snow-machine and booze purveyors under such a modest plan? You/we might commit all PFDs issued to minors to dedicated education saving accounts.

### IV. OTHER

With ANWR center stage just now, I would suggest trying another tack with legal guidance from Constitutional Law specialists. Question: What Article of the federal Constitution supports federal retention of "state" land after statehood for purposes other than national defense and the obviously necessary disposal interval for such lands as are to be sold into private ownership? Preservation of special lands, a federal idea that gained general support in the late 19th Century, obviously conflicts with the prevailing national compact on land-ownership during the preceding 90+ years. Yellowstone Natl. Park was created prior to Wyoming statehood, as were most of the "national interest" retained areas of Alaska. Yosemite N.P., however, was created as federal park well after California statehood. How did we, the non-California people acquire title to the 1,300 square miles of what had been a California State Park? Purchase, I suppose. Now we have virtually empty shell states, such as Nevada and Alaska, that own but a small part of the gross acreage nominally shown for those two states. Is this situation not essentially an uncompensated federal taking? In order to correct this obvious inequity, we really should revisit the Alaska Statehood Act with serious intention to force our "federal" selves to properly compensate our "state" selves for this taking of public interest land. One might suggest that all states harboring federal inholdings be given title to the subject lands, perhaps subject to state payment of fair market value less full credit for federal use of the land over the intervening years of federal hegemony, with guarantees that federal interests be assured via long-term leases. "National interests" then become fungible and subject to periodic review. Should the 30,000 square miles of ANWR bear a lease fee of, say \$10/ac./year, payable by us, the people, to us, the State of Alaska, this might well compel us to

**Senate Finance Committee Testimony  
Human Services Community Matching Grant HB 75**

RECEIVED

APR 16 2003

My name is Denise Daniello and I reside at 3844 Ullrbahn Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709. I am testifying in support of full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant. I am also the executive director of the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center.

The Human Services Community Matching Grant provides funding to social safety net agencies that distribute food to the poor, provide legal services for low-income persons, care for the dying, and deliver Meals on Wheels to homebound seniors. Each HSCMG agency provides a unique and unduplicated service for the community, collaborating with other programs to enhance social services. Approximately 31,000 people in the Borough have received services from agencies funded by this Block grant. That number amounts to roughly one-third of all Borough residents.

The North Star Council on Aging is a recipient of the Human Services Community Matching Grant. We use this grant to provide funding for the Meals on Wheels program, delivering hot nutritious meals to 150 homebound persons of the Fairbanks North Star Borough targeting at-risk elders who are frail, disabled, and financially in need. NSCoA is the only agency in the Borough providing the Meals on Wheels service. Of those individuals receiving Meals on Wheels, 95% are physically or mentally impaired; 66% are low-income earning less than \$1,000 monthly; and 69% are both medically incapacitated and financially distressed.

We travel more than 150 miles each day delivering meals to seniors who live within the city limits and those who reside outside the city core. For many, the Meals on Wheels service is a lifeline that provides the one and only meal of the day. One in eight Fairbanks seniors (persons 60 years and older) live below poverty level, too poor to buy healthy food, and too frail to shop and cook for themselves.

The Meals on Wheels program benefits two distinct categories of recipients - the frail elderly in long-term need of support, and those in need of short-term intervention recovering from an illness. Without access to proper nutrition, an elder's status can deteriorate rapidly resulting in hospitalization that can be unnecessarily costly in both human and financial terms. The full price of a home delivered meal is \$10.34 per day as compared to \$850 per day at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

The Human Services Community Matching Grant helps us to leverage more than \$300,000 of outside dollars for our nutrition program and over \$21,000 in in-kind assistance from 14 MOW program volunteers. Last year, we prepared and served almost 80,000 meals for Fairbanks seniors. The loss of this grant means that 13 homebound seniors will lose their Meals on Wheels service.

The Human Services Community Matching Grant is a sound, long-term community investment we support. Thank you.

*Denise Daniello*  
4/15/03

We, who have signed our names below, support full funding for the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the Human Services Community Marching Grant programs. They help Alaskan seniors to remain independent and live at home. Please do not cut these important programs from the legislative budget.

Thank You.

Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
HUBER	FRANCOIS	1636 STACIA	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	FRANCOIS HUBER
FAIRBANKS	KEVIN	3250 ADAMS	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	KEVIN FAIRBANKS
SHOCKLEY	ROSE	455-3700 304th Fairbanks	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	ROSE SHOCKLEY
GLADICE			FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	GLADICE CANTON
CANTON	GLADICE	1501 BUTTERCUP ST	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	GLADICE CANTON
WEINER	RAITH	330 3rd Ave	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	RAITH WEINER
STARCKEL	HAROLD	666-1144 AK. unit 104	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	HAROLD STARCKEL
YANG	MARIE	1420 MOORE ST	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	MARIE YANG
CONFORTI	JOSE	315 FARWELL AVE FAIRBANKS	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	JOSE CONFORTI
HELANDER	ALFONSO	292 NARROW VIEW LN	FAIRBANKS	AK	99702	ALFONSO HELANDER
		665-10th Ave	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	MURIEL JACOB
		2604 Kuskokwim	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	
		2604 Kuskokwim	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	
		P.O. Box 70346	FAIRBANKS	AK	99707	
		1680 KIANA ST	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	
	MEASE J.W.	PO Box 30001	FAIRBANKS	AK	99708	J.W. MEASE
		PO Box 60203	FAIRBANKS	AK	99706	DAVID JUNG
		1015 SALINA ST	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	
		570 KENTZHE DR.	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	
		275 WALDEN DR.	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	
		70 BOX 70455	FAIRBANKS	AK	99707	
						JOHN CLIFF
BREMER	CLIFF	P.O. Box 80865	FAIRBANKS	AK	99708	CLIFF BREMER

We who have signed our names below, support full funding for the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the Human Services Community Matching Grant programs. They help Alaskan seniors to remain independent and live at home. Please do not cut these important programs from the legislative budget.

Thank You.

Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
Bolma	Ruth	P.O. Box 50-155	Fairbanks	Alaska	99708	Ruth B. Bolma
Thomas	Melissa	1606 HEITARD	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Melissa Thomas
Ferguson	Katherine	1829 JACK ST.	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Katherine Ferguson
Yankovic	Marie	1420 MOORE ST	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Marie Yankovic
GAMBA	MARTIN	1436 LATHROP	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Martin Gamba
Hoffman	Marianne	708 RANNEY ST.	Fairbanks	AK	99701	Marianne Hoffman
WILSON	JOAN L.	629 GINGKO	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Joan L. Wilson
CHILLEN	Jeanne	1721 UNIVERSITY AVE.	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Jeanne Chillen
Roth	Martha	666-116 APT. C-21	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Martha Roth
Walsh	Margaret	P.O. Box 80304	Fairbanks	AK	99708	Margaret Walsh
Walker	Margaret	1731 Univ. Blvd	Fairbanks	AK	99709-4944	Margaret Walker
DeLoe	Debra	6755 Old Rich Hwy	Salekpa	AK	99774	Debra DeLoe

**Testimony given on behalf of the Alaska Historical Society by President Candy Waugaman.**

**The proposed \$255,000 decrease in funding for the Alaska State Library, one of the most user-friendly agencies of our State and one that exists to serve the public and preserve Alaskan history, is a sorry sign of the times and the priorities our elected officials choose to give government.**

RECEIVED  
APR 16 2003

**I'm sure that everyone taking part in this testimony today has used a library, grown up with a library nearby, and taken their own children to use such a facility. Children know what a library is by the time or before they know about apple pie and baseball...and everyone enjoys the library! There is not another agency in the State of Alaska that can brag such recognition, and few other agencies that are ever happily used by people during their lifetime.**

**Standing in line to get my license from Motor Vehicles, being summoned for jury duty, fined by DEC, or involved with the AG's office are all unpleasant experiences with State agencies. The library is one of the few saving graces of government and many of the various programs offered by the Alaska State Library that are accessible state-wide will be lost with the proposed budget cuts.**

**Most significant to a collector such as myself will be the curtailment of preservation programs of our historical collection, a collection that affords our grandchildren the opportunity to view how we lived and how the times were in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in Alaska.**

**The budget cuts will also result in reduced hours at the library for walk-in use and inquiries through other means, and reduction in staff to maintain web access to the Alaska State Library collections and services. In addition, the cuts to the archives budget will result in limited public access to historic records, as well as limiting your access to research proposed actions being taken by the legislature and other branches of state government.**

**Budget cuts will eliminate SLED, our Alaska information web site. This is a programs used by researchers statewide, and is of particular importance to students and the universities and community colleges throughout Alaska.**



**The Alaska State Library has suffered through legislative budget cuts over the last decade because of lack of support by our elected officials of this essential part of state government that cannot be self-sustaining. Like the Governor's Office and the Legislature itself, some departments just can't pay their own way, but are necessary. I would put the library at the top of that list!**

**Hb . 4 has provided amendments that fund approximately ½ the cuts to this year's budget, and would provide for basic services from these state operated facilities. In addition, a minimal amount of funding reinstated to the Alaska State Archives would provide for that agency to remain open full time.**

**I would hope that those of you given the opportunity to support protection of your past would happily do so by, at the very minimum, reinstating funding to the degree proposed by the house for operations in our Alaska State Museums, Alaska State Library and our Historical Collections.**

**Thank you for your time.**



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Fot!  
462  
2157

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee **RECEIVED**  
 Committee on SB 35 - Budget Committee Name Dated 4-15-03 **APR 16 2003**  
Bill / Subject

Tiber Reibman - Arctic Alliance for People (network of over 40 human service providers in Interior Alaska)  
 The strength of any society, community, or state can be measured by its capacity to care for its needy and its willingness to support and educate its children. That capacity is the support structure of our state and without it we are a far less desirable place to start a business or raise a family.  
 I ask you tonight to strengthen our state by fully restoring the funding for the HSS Community Matching Block Grant. This program provides an efficient, cost effective mechanism for Fairbanks and Anchorage to fund programs that provide a safety net for Alaska that saves the state millions of dollars in terms of the costs of incarceration, public assistance and institutionalization. This is results-based funding at its finest. In Fairbanks alone an average of 31,000 people per year receive services from the programs funded by the matching grant.  
~~These programs also have a million dollars worth of services. The matching grant is the biggest bargain in the state of Alaska.~~

SIGNED: Tiber Reibman On March 27<sup>th</sup> the Borough Assembly unanimously passed a resolution requesting that these funds be restored at the FY02 level of \$1,700,000. The Community Matching Grant is the biggest bargain in the State of Alaska. Please restore these funds and keep intact this critical

Safety net for our state.  
 Tiber S Reibman Arctic Alliance PO Box 438 Ester AK 99725 458-0423

FAX: 465-2157



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee  
 Committee on Statistical Budget Teleconference Committee Name  
 Dated 4-15-03  
 Bill / Subject

RECEIVED  
APR 16 2003

Thank you for this opportunity. Having just visited Juneau last week, see the undaunting task before you.

The proposed reduction in funds for the Family Preservation/Family Support grants along with the cuts over the last three years will adversely affect agencies across Alaska. In Fairbanks, it affects RCPC, Fairbanks Counseling & Adoption & SNA Family Focus Program.

We must emphasize these are not just one time reductions. These reductions have continued over the last 3 years in the northern region, totaling over \$96,000 per year & \$160,000 over 2 years.

We currently manage the Family Focus emergency shelter under those grants. It is the only 24 hour emergency facility for children in the interior. A 24 hour facility includes personnel, facility costs of over \$600,000; Safety has already been compromised at the shelter.

SIGNED:

Don Hagan  
Testifier

Fairbanks Native Association Family Focus  
Representing

1307 Windfallway, Fairbanks AK 99709  
Address / Phone Number

465-2187

RECEIVED  
APR 16 2003

Good afternoon, my name is Derek Miller and I'm a student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I also am the Student Regent on the UA Board of Regents. I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska and I'm a lifelong Alaskan. I was educated at Weller Elementary, Tenara Middle School and Lathrop High School. I plan on graduating from UAF next month.

I'm here testifying on behalf of not only the University but K-12 Education as you all know is an essential part of the health of this state, never more so than today. Years ago you asked for accountability from the University and you've got it. We have retained more Alaskan high schoolers in the past five years than ever before. We've trained Alaskans in the various growing industries in the state and we've diversified the states sources of revenue. Furthermore, the success of K-12 has increasingly depended on the success of the University as we train the teachers then train your kids.

The state of Alaska is embarking on a new frontier and we've gotten this far in large part because of the contributions of the University. I was just talking with Chancellor Marshall Lind of UAF yesterday and he mentioned to me that applications for the UA scholars program have increased by 60% over where we were at this time last year. Young people are beginning to recognize the caliber of this institution. Please do not impede this progress and fund Education K thru University fully. "I wish you good luck in your difficult deliberations."

-DEREK MILLER



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

RECEIVED  
APR 16 2003

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance

Committee on HB 75 (U of A: K-12) Committee Name Dated 04.15.03

Bill / Subject

Thank you for leading Alaska through these budget deliberations.

Budget cuts aren't easy as it seems the state has been paying for ongoing expenses with one-time revenue sources.

On a small scale, grant programs such as the Learning Opportunity Grants or AST Funds have been funding ongoing and essential education needs.

On a large scale, the State of Alaska has been using its short-term cash reserves to shore up what it considers essential and ongoing services.

Now those grants are being cut. The CBR is being drawn down. WE NEED TO REPLACE THOSE FUNDS WITH GENERAL FUNDS.

In particular, replace education funds (K-U of A) with revenue generated from a state income tax. This will go a long way in DIVERSIFYING STATE REVENUE. Alaska deserves fully-funded education buffered from the crazy swings of oil prices.

Please review "THE WAY WE TAX" at [www.governing.com](http://www.governing.com). ~~AK~~

SIGNED:

MARTA MUELLER

Testifier

UAF Alumna,

Representing

516 Auklet Place Fairbanks AK 99709

Address / Phone Number

Fax 465-2187



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

RECEIVED  
APR 16 2003

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance  
Committee Name  
Committee on Tobacco Prevention & Control Dated 4/15/03  
Bill / Subject

On behalf of myself and all those who enjoy breathing. I am encouraging you to fully fund the Tobacco Prevention and Control.

CDC's Best Practice recommends Alaska spend \$16.5 million to combat the needless deaths from tobacco use. At a minimum CDC believes we need to spend \$8.1 million. This is only 1/8 of the Tobacco Tax & Tobacco Settlement Money.

The legislature has already taken 80% of the Settlement Money for other projects. We are just now turning the corner on Public Awareness of the Toxic Poisons of Tobacco Smoke -

We need consistent funding over the Long Term! I encourage the committee to live up to The Legislative Commitment made 2 years ago: To fund Tobacco Prevention and Control at least 20% of the Tobacco Settlement Funds.

This is important! This is about health, life, and Integrity!

SIGNED:

Diann M. Darnall  
Testifier

Self - Those who enjoy breathing  
Representing

P.O. Box 81189 Fairbanks, 99708 479-0952  
Address / Phone Number

15 April 2003

RECEIVED  
APR 16 2003

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to urge you to:

1. Support full funding for education (from K-12 through the University). Education is not a "frill." It is essential to the future of Alaska.
  2. Stop the move of the Division of Habitat from the Department of Fish and Game to the Department of Natural Resources. The reasons published by the past five Commissioners of the Department of Fish and Game argued effectively for retaining the Division as it is now. The argument for the move was weak and depended on personal gripes from individuals to the Governor.
  3. Retain full funding for revenue sharing to local governments. They depend on these funds to provide vital services, losing them will increase your property taxes.
  4. Alaska's population has increased by about 80,000 people in the past decade; that is the same as the population of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. This growth, combined with inflation, obviously put more burdens on Alaska's state government. But during this time, the Legislature made no effort to raise the needed revenue. Instead, it simply continued cutting the budget. It's like expecting a growing teen-ager to live in the clothes of a five-year old.
- The budget has already been cut too much for too long. This is NOT the time to consider additional budget cuts!
5. Raise revenue by reinstating our state income tax. It is easier to administer and will raise twice as much as the gaggle of taxes proposed by the governor. The rate is set as a simple percentage of the amount actually paid to the federal IRS. This rate was 14% when our income tax was repealed in 1980; the rate can be easily modified as needs change. Reinstating our state income tax is essential; putting it off won't help.
  6. Of the governors proposed taxes, the only ones that makes sense are the increases in motor vehicle fuel tax and vehicle registration. Alaska is far below all the rest of the states in both of these taxes.

I hope you can understand the need to raise revenue.

Sincerely,  
Carl S. Benson  
1551 Farmers Loop  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Senators: Thank you for the opportunity for testimony

APRIL 15, 2003

Preserve funds for independent living

copy  
Nurse →

Jo Pedersen / Fairbanks, Alaska  
ACCESS (consumer)

Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis at age 32, in 1991. ( 11 years ago )

RECEIVED  
APR 16 2003

Worked at UAF as an Adjunct Instructor for the past five years...

I am one of many Alaskans with A disability who would like to continue to work.

With the Help of the Wonderful Agency ACCESS Alaska, they have helped by supplying equipment as well as transportation & housing assistance for out of town medical care.

For instance Last week I was in Anchorage. Acces Alaska made it feasible for me to keep an appointment with my Cardiologist, at The Alaska HeartCenter, for Angioplasty.

... Warming the bed for the Governor ... who arrived two days later...

I am HERE tonight ... I hope the governor is feeling well!

I Implore you to continue Funding these wonderful Agencies.

I am a registered voter.



119 N. Cushman St. Suite 101  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
Phone: 907-452-4448  
Fax: 907-456-3346

**Fairbanks Legislative  
Information Office**

# Fax

**To:** Senator Lyda Green, Co-Chair

**From:** Fairbanks LIO

Senate Finance Committee

**Fax:** 465-3805

**Date:** 4/15/2003

**Phone:** 465-2187

**Pages:** 18

**Re:** Written Testimony SB 35

**CC:**

**Urgent**

**For The Record**

**Please Comment**

**Please Reply**

**•Comments** Written testimony for SB 35, teleconferenced on 4/15/04. The originals will be pouched to the committee co-chair.

Fran/Fbx LIO



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee  
Committee Name

Committee on HB 158 Longevity Bonus dated April 15, 2003  
Bill/Subject

**URGENTI URGENTI URGENTI**

**We greatly oppose Governor Murkowski's action to eliminate the Longevity Bonus**

**in HB 158, and companion measure in the Senate under Senate Bill 117.**

**As long-time residents the elimination of the Longevity Bonus will pose a hardship to our continued living in Alaska, since our investment earnings have declined while our health care costs have increased. We also feel the Longevity Bonus was a promise and to eliminate it now would be unfair and unjust.**

**Alaska has been our home for over 45 years, and we urge you and your committee to protect this program on our behalf and for all seniors in Alaska who now receive monies under this program. Surely Governor Murkowski can find a better source than the Longevity Bonus to reduce funds.**

**Alfred and Virginia Augestad  
1439 Virginia Court  
Anchorage, AK 99501**

Signed Alfred Augestad

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1439 Virginia Court

Address

Anchorage AK 99501

Phone Number

(907) 272-0380

TO: SENATOR WILKEN

FROM: DEBBIE

DATE: APRIL 16, 2003

RE:

---

I CANNOT QUOTE YOU DOLLARS AND CENTS THAT WILL MAKE YOU SEE THE FINANCIAL GAIN OF NOT CUTTING FUNDING FOR ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ACCESS ALASKA. BUT I CAN QUOTE YOU SOME SENSE: THERE CAN BE NO MORE VIRTUOUS VOCATION FOR A HUMAN BEING, A HUMANE BEING THAN ADVOCACY

THANKS,

DEBBIE CONNER  
ACCESS ALASKA

AUTOMATIC COVER SHEET

DATE : APR-16-2003 09:03 AM

TO :

FAX #: 19074652187

FROM : ACCESS ALASKA

FAX #: 907374092552

2 PAGES WERE SENT

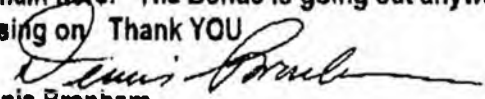
(INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET)

Alaska State Legislature  
Fax 907 465 2187

April; 16, 03

Testimony:: To Committtee on Longivlty Bonus

I have resided in Alaska since April 1941 and I am in favor of the Longivlty Bonus. The Bonus is part of the reason that I am able to stay in Alaska. All of my income including the Bonus is spent here and will continue as long as I remain here. The Bonus is going out anyway due to us older Alaskans passing on. Thank YOU

  
Dennis Branham  
P O Box 190184  
Anchorage Ak. 99519

*FAX 907 243 4907*



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance  
 Committee Name  
 Committee on SB 117 - Longevity Bonus dated 4-15-03  
 Bill/Subject

Senators -

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 117. Killing the Longevity Bonus program will force many seniors into more expensive welfare programs or they may be forced to leave their homes and/or the state. If you want us to tighten our belts to help the states economy try a graduated income tax that would fairly spread the pain to all levels and generations.

Signed Albert A Dennis  
 Testifier Albert A DENNIS  
 Representing (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address 1227 W 12th Ave - Anchorage 99501  
 Phone Number (907) 258-0133



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance  
Committee Name

Committee on SB 117 - Longevity Bonus dated 4-15-03  
Bill/Subject

Senators:

I am opposed to Senate Bill 117 - proposing the closing out of payment for Longevity Bonus. These payments not only keep many seniors independent, but are funds vital to the economy, particularly of many small communities.

On all fairness, you need to look at a graduated income tax as the best way to solve the State's financial crisis, not taking away income from old people and the education of our children.

Signed Elizabeth M Dennis

Teasler Elizabeth M. DENNIS

Representing (Optional)

Address 1227 W 12<sup>th</sup> Ave - Anchorage 99501

Phone Number: (907) 258-0133

Vickie & Richard Horodyski  
1035 Ballaine Rd.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
Phone: (907) 479-6584 Fax: (907) 457-6584  
Email: horodysk@ptialaska.net

FAX  
COVER SHEET

DATE: 4/15/03  
TO: Senate Finance Committee  
FROM: Vickie Horodyski  
RE: Public Testimony Given During  
Teleconference  
PAGES: 2 (including cover)

COMMENTS: Thank you for allowing  
me to present my  
opinion.



## TESTIMONY C /EN 4-15-03

Vickie Horodyski

1035 Ballaine Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709

Phone: 479-6584

Email: [horodvsk@otialaska.net](mailto:horodvsk@otialaska.net)

I coordinate our local FAS/FAE Parent Support Group.  
I am on the FACES FAS Diagnostic Team in Fairbanks.

My husband & I received our Foster Care License approximately 14 years ago. 10 years ago we adopted 9 yr old girl. As a result of that adoption and what she has taught us, we now have a specialized license for a therapeutic foster home for children prenatally exposed to alcohol.

Without appropriate interventions and support individuals can develop secondary disabilities. A few of those disabilities are:

- Chronic Unemployment
- Homelessness
- Social Problems
- Mental Illness
- Criminal Acts
- Poverty
- Early Pregnancy
- Alcoholism & Other Addictions

We have seen all of these disabilities occur in the individuals who did not have family or other supports to guide them. Many who experience prenatal exposure to alcohol will never be able to "successfully" live in "total independence". They are a very vulnerable population who need and deserve to be protected. They did not create their disability, but they do have to live with it. The quality of their life is dependent on others to provide them with the support that they need from an early age and for many throughout their adult life. With such supports they can become productive, responsible adults.

If you are not willing to financially support the programs and services that they require, then you need to be prepared for the costly expenses that will result. You will need to put great expense into institutions, hospitals, homeless shelters, and prisons.



# Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on Budget, dated 4/15/03  
Bill/Subject

*This is a copy of a letter sent to  
governor Murkowski. Would you  
please take it into consideration.  
Thank you very much.*

Signed: Janet Girard

Testifier  
self

Representing (Optional)  
1245 Scotwood Dr. Wasilla - 99654  
Address

373-3072  
Phone number

April 8, 2003

Re: Longevity Bonus

Janet B. Girard  
1245 Scotwood Drive  
Wasilla  
Alaska 99654

Dear Governor Murkowski:

Yes Governor Murkowski, I am sure all of us eldest seniors, the ones on the longevity bonus, would be happy to lead Alaska in an effort to right Alaska's financial problems and would like to share the load--if we possibly could. But despite our age we still have the urge for self-preservation and many of us are still endeavoring to give worthwhile service to our communities and families. We are not dunderheads only to be patted on the head and be expected to willingly walk the plank to an early death. Despite being conscientious when it comes to our health care--eating correctly, exercising, including being active in the community, for those who still can, and doing all to maintain mental acuity our bodies still continue to degenerate. With this normal aging process we often need medications that are very costly and difficult to afford without help. We deserve the opportunity to fulfill our lives without having to commit suicide.

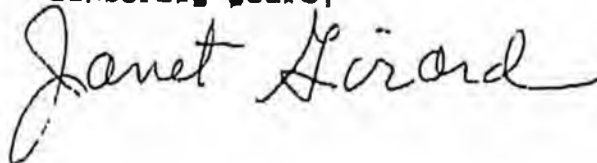
Many of us cannot qualify for Medicaid (which still is at least partly paid by the state), but yet the exorbitant cost of medicine today makes our survival questionable. Without the longevity bonus, many of us will not be able to make it. It is that vital to us.

Do you really feel that the eldest of Alaskan seniors (age 72-onward) are so unimportant and useless that you are willing to sacrifice us for the extra money Alaska needs, causing us great hardship, and in some cases great pain and needless death for lack of medication or food? Surely there must be another more humane way to scare up the bucks.

Many of our oldest seniors have been the pioneers of Alaska and have given much to the state. The already aging children of these seniors would find it hard to replace the loss of the longevity bonus to their parents. Their younger descendants would be just starting out with their own heavy expenses. What you do to us impacts the lives of many others as well.

Can't we at least end our years in a productive way as long as possible and with dignity? Please don't ask us to die sooner than we need to. We are still worthwhile citizens but most of us unfortunately are unable to bear anymore loads, no matter how much we would like to, and now we ourselves are in need of a helping hand. We have given to Alaska--now we need your help. Please don't condemn us to this catastrophe. Please keep the longevity bonus. We and our families will be eternally grateful.

Sincerely yours,



April 15, 2003

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am still trying to review SB 35 and understand its complexities. One of the many questions I have is the rent paid to the State of Alaska by the State of Alaska. For example, The Department of Commerce and Economics has a proposed rent budget of \$794,400. This money is to pay the State rent on State property. I don't get it. I wouldn't pay rent to my husband so he can turn it around and give it back to me to give it back to him. I believe this happens a lot. Please someone explain this procedure in the simplest way.

I would like to see another Guardian Ad Litem placed out here in the Valley to help with the increasing number of CINA cases and civil cases that the Valley's one G.A.L. is handling. If we are going to provide legal representation to children then lets see that we give them the same quality as you or I would want from an attorney representing us. If not, why bother to pretend to protect the rights of people who can't protect themselves.

If we need to trim money then we need to consider pay cuts. If my business is doing poorly, then I don't earn much money. If the State is having a hard time making ends meet then the Governor, Lt. Governor and Commissioners may need to freeze or reduce their salaries until the State has more money to pay them. If you want the people of Alaska to reduce their demands for better and more services then we need to see our leadership join us in our economic struggle.

I thank you for your time and attention with regard to this matter.

Sincerely,

Marci Schmidt  
c/o Computer Works  
901 Hermon Road, #1  
Wasilla, Alaska 99654  
907-376-0188 work  
907-357-3618 home  
907-376-9065 fax

**Subject: Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget**

**Date: Mon, 14 Apr 2003 22:15:57 -0900**

**From: leewilson@gci.net**

**To: Con Bunde <Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>**

Lee Wilson  
9621 Hillside Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507-6010  
907-346-3669  
leewilson@gci.net  
4/14/2003  
Senate Budget Subcommittee Closeouts

I am unable to make the call in on Tuesday  
Please accept my comments courtesy of Senator Con  
Bundy.

Governor Murkowski was elected on a pro-  
education campaign among other promises. Cuts to the  
foundation program, transportation and library  
operations are unacceptable. We are asking the  
schools to do more than ever with more accountability  
than ever yet they continue to perform well by any  
measure. These cuts undermine education achievement  
and begin a decline to less than excellent schooling.

The University of Alaska is just regaining its  
footing. Public confidence is just returning. Cuts  
now will undermine program and progress.

The Habitat division must remain with fish  
and Game. The governor clearly does not understand  
that Fish and Game has the best long range look at  
how development affects habitat and how bes

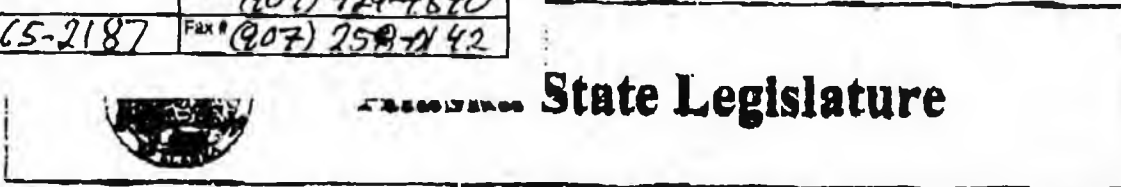
t to  
mitigate damage. Murkowski told us a lot of mis-  
truth about his proposal. I smell a skunk, it reeks  
of outright forestry favoritism . The director of  
DNR came from where?

Close the state chemistry lab in Juneau?  
Doesn't that just tie the hands of environmental  
enforcement?

Safe communities are the heart of democratic  
society. How can a cut of \$4,193.9 be good for my  
family and our neighbors?

How can \$511.7 be subtracted from Motor Vehicles  
without a fee increase to maintain current level of  
service?

Post-It* Fax Note	7671	Date	4/15/03	# of pages	3
To	SENATE FINANCE (COMM)	From	Elliott Dennis		
Co./Dept	State Legislation	Co.			
Phone #		Phone #	(907) 929-4890		
Fax #	(907) 465-2187	Fax #	(907) 258-1142		



Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance  
 Committee Name  
 Committee on SB 117 Longevity  
HB 158 BONUS, dated 4/15/03  
 Bill/Subject

Committee Members - Robert Service wrote that "a promise made, is a debt unpaid, and the trail has its own steam code". The Longevity Bonus was implemented by the Legislature to encourage "Old Timers" to stay in ALASKA as they aged. My parents have made ALASKA home since 1957; they are "Old Timers". The longevity bonus program helps them live in their state. Abolition of that program will be a broken promise - a debt unpaid. Abolition of that program will make their life more difficult. So, don't abolish the program.

In stead, screw up some courage and fix the states fiscal crisis permanently. Implement a state income tax which makes everyone who is earning money pay a fair share. At least a state income tax would be used hard - not in Washin.

Signed Elliott Dennis | I paid \$40,000 to the feds in 2002,  
 Testifier | A few more thousand won't add much D.C. /  
 Representing (Optional) | Pain, and it  
 Address 1610 W 10TH AVE | will be for my 900th cent.  
 Anchorage, AK 99501  
 Phone Number (907) 929-4890



# 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 am concerned with the constant election rhetoric during campaign season that states .... Yes.... let's fully fund education.... I believe it needs to be done ..... Kids are our future, etc. Yet, when push comes to shove education continues to take a back seat to everything. Please create a lottery, take my dividend or tax my income.

Signed: John W. Wenzley  
Testifier

Parent

Representing (optional)  
580 Rance Court Kenai, AK 99611  
Address

907-283-6091  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Finance Committee  
committee name

Committee on

SB35 + SB34  
bill # / subject

, dated

April 15, 2003

Dear Legislatures, I am writing concerning cuts in the University of AK funding. I believe the AK UNIV. system is a wonderful system. My husband got his Masters degree at UAF and I myself have taken many classes there. Now my daughter is a High School Senior who is in the top 10% of her graduating class. As a result she has received the AK Scholars Award. Our family is delighted and honored to receive this gift. I truly believe it is important that you continue programs such as these. We have a Great University and we need great people to attend them. If the money to support the UNIV. system is not there we will definitely lose students. College kids want to experience outstanding education opportunities please don't discourage educators from wanting to teach at our University because we can't offer them adequate wages. Thank you.

Signed:

Nora King  
Testifier

parent former UAF student  
Representing (optional)

4903B Daniels UAF  
Address

776-3436  
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 University of Alaska has made great strides toward the development of programs in high demand employment areas. Alaskans need to have the opportunity to be ~~then~~ trained in these fields, in Alaska. If people are going to remain in Alaska & provide needed services to Alaskans the funding for the University of Alaska needs to be maintained.

I am more than willing to pay <sup>state income</sup> taxes to ensure that Alaskans may be educated and trained for the future. Education of Alaskans at all levels must be a priority for the future our state.

Signed: Krista Timlin  
Testifier

Kenai Peninsula College  
Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 3477, Kenai, AK 99611  
Address

907-283-7972  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on Community Schools dated April 15, 2003  
Bill/Subject

The Mat-Su Valley is only receiving 49,000 of this Grant Money. That keeps all schools open in the evenings for Youth Groups to bring the kids of the community. (6 days a week) Mon. thru Fri 3pm to 9pm - 4 middle schools open Saturdays from 8am to 8pm. We have approx. 800 kids in Palmer, 1200 in Wasilla Area, 300 kids in Trapper Creek - Su Valley - Talkeetna area who utilize all these school buildings. If the money is cut, the kids won't be able to use the schools during evening hours. Leaving the kids no place to go. Now we staff these sites with people to cover these events. The children are the ones to suffer if this program is cut.

Signed: Susan R. Fischer / Community Schools Program Facilitator  
Testifier

Community Schools Mat-Su School District  
Representing (Optional)

3901 E. Bogard Road - Wasilla, AK 99654  
Address

(907) 376-0831 / Fax 376-7866  
Phone number Work

Attention Lyda Green  
This is your Valley!



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the (S) FIN committee name

committee on SB35 , dated 4-15-03 bill/subject

MY WIFE AND I NEED THIS LONGEVITY OR MEDICARE FOR OUR MEDICATION TOGETHER WE GET \$1200.00 PER MONTH ON SOCIAL SECURITY 150 LONGEVITY PLUS PERMANENT FUND. WHY DON'T CONGRESS AND GOVERNOR GIVE UP HALF OF THEIR INCOME TO HELP THE STATE ALSO WHY ARE YOU AGAINST A STATE SALES TAX THEN THE TUREST WOULD HELP.

Signed: Charlie R. Michon  
Testifier Charlie R. Michon

Representing (Optional)  
279 HERNDON DR. HOMER, AK 99603

Address  
1-907-235-3935  
Phone No.

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	4-15	# of pages	1
To	S (FIN)	From	HOMER LIO		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #	405-3805	Fax #			

907-465-2187



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance  
Committee Name

Committee on Longevity Bonus, dated April 15, 2003  
Bill/Subject

Many cities and states encourage older people to retire in their communities. They don't require schools and other servuces. Their retirement funds are spent locally. Longevity payments encourage eldves to remain in Alaska near their children and grandchildren.

Robert E. Renkcert - Alaska 1943

Mildred W. Renkert - Alaska 1945

Signed Robert E. Renkcert Mildred W. Renkert  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address 1225 S ST. ANCHORAGE, AK. 99501-4231

Phone Number 907-277-0354

April 15, 2003

To: Alaska Senate Finance Committee  
Re: \$30 million cuts to Education

Please do not cut our state education budget. Here is how your choices are affecting one of your school districts.

**Copper River School Districts Budget Concerns**

2002-03 budget	\$5,820,895.00.
03-04 salary and benefit increases & 35% insurance and utility costs)	+ \$374,983.00
Amount needed to continue present programs	\$6,195,878.00.

Reduction need to reach projected 03-04 budget	<u>-\$307,614.00</u>	
District projected preliminary budget (reflects a gain of \$80.00 per student and a loss of 58 correspondence students)		\$5,888,264.00

Senate Proposed reductions:		
20% of bussing to be paid by district	-	\$812,000.00
removal of funding formula increase	-	<u>\$112,000.00</u>
Senate Projected 03-04 budget for CRSD		\$5,594,264.00


Total budget cuts	\$601,614.00
School sites	7-8

(can't consolidate -buildings already full and bus rides would be too long)

Students on Sites	2002-03 /540 students	03-04/539 students
Correspondence	2002-03/180	03-04/121

**Copper River School District needs to make \$601,614.00 in budget cuts, a 10% budget decrease, while our school population remains the same. Go Figure!**

When was the funding formula last increased? Every year it costs more to educate our children, every year that formula needs to go up. How are we supposed to pay our present bills that keep going up, new transportation bills, higher retirement bills, emergency communication bills.....and no additional money in our check book and the same number of mouths at the table?

Extremely Concerned  


Julie Knutson  
Mother of four (ages 5,7,9 and 12)  
Kenny Lake  
Copper River School District

PS A don't tell me we need a borough to help fund our schools. There is a pipeline that runs through our district. You're making money off that pipeline. You should be giving us a share of that money. Or we could become a borough and take it all.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee  
Committee Name 907-465-2187

Committee on Longevity Bonus, dated 4-15-03  
Bill/Subject

Please accept my letter dated 4/8/03 to Governor Murkowski as testimony on behalf of my father William Margeson and myself: there are not adequate "safety net" programs for Seniors - shortly my father will be without medical services, as the letter illustrates.

Signed Marty Margeson

Testifier my dad - William Margeson

Representing (Optional) 1401 West 13<sup>th</sup> Ave Anchorage AK 99501

Address 907-278-9275

Phone Number



1401 West 13th Ave., Anchorage, AK99501  
Web: [www.anchorage-downtown.com](http://www.anchorage-downtown.com)

**MARTY MARGESON**  
Margeson Real Estate  
Anchorage Downtown Bed & Breakfast  
At "Raspberry Meadows"  
907-278-9275; Fax: 907-278-9282  
Email: [asweethome@eci.net](mailto:asweethome@eci.net)

April 8, 2003

Governor Frank Murkowski  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Without the Longevity Bonus, Pioneer Home Vet Needs "Safety Net Program"

Dear Governor Murkowski:

My 89-year-old father, a decorated World War II naval officer, is destitute and needs funds so he can receive continued medical care and services which are necessary for his health, and pain alleviation. He chose not to apply for the longevity bonus because he did not believe in government handouts. He frugally saved and believed his \$300,000 savings would fund his retirement. Now my dad has paid the Anchorage Pioneer Home (APH) his savings, and has no money left to pay for care and services that the home no longer provides - promised services which are necessary for his health, services which are needed to alleviate pain. I received your mailing entitled "Safety Net Programs Supporting Senior Citizens", but I do not find any programs to assist his needs.

Since my dad's admissions to APH in 9/97 rates have tripled at the Pioneer Homes, making APH twice as expensive as most Anchorage assisted living homes. However, with fee increases the Homes continue to redefine and cut services, and pass more expense on to the residents. For example, under new regulation all handicapped ADRD/Comprehensive residents must provide a traveling companion in order to ride APH's handicapped bus to their medical appointments. Under the stipend program my dad is only allowed \$100 per month to cover his needs; I must supplement this since this is not enough. He cannot pay the \$25+ charge for a companion. I do not see how I can, with a documented back injury, be his companion and push his chair and carry my baby at the same time. As a single mom, I cannot pay this additional cost. If APH has enough staff to transport residents for shopping events or the State Fair, why are they lacking staff for important medical transportation? Why are only the handicapped Pioneer Home residents forced to pay this additional expense/get family assistance to supplement short staffing? Where are the funds in your safety net programs to pay for this?

My father is physically handicapped and mentally challenged with dementia. Prior to admission, we were told APH was the premier assisted living dementia facility, which would provide individualized physical therapy and medical care to meet my dad's needs, and that he could age in place without having to move to a nursing home. Now, in an email dated 2/25/02 Bill O'Connor, Administrator states that because APH is an assisted living home it does "not provide intensive medical services, such as skilled PT or rehabilitative PT to residents. Such skilled health care can be provided off premises, as is the case for Mr. Margeson with Providence Outpatient Physical Therapy". However, without transportation, my dad cannot attend physical therapy off premises. Furthermore, if my dad were receiving adequate exercise/ daily range of motion he would not need rehabilitative physical therapy (HCFA says becoming immobile is an indication of neglect). Because the Home does not provide the promised services, my twice daily visits are spent massaging my dad's painful hand contractures, providing range of motion exercises, providing standing therapy, providing hydration, providing activity/exercise such as ball tossing, and feeding him; there is little time to simply relax and be his daughter. The Home continues to hire administrators, and cut the direct care CNA staff. With diminished services, free access to medical transportation is crucial.

My dad needs funding to pay for the administration of his nutritional supplements - a service promised in writing prior to admission, but no longer provided. This service is provided by other assisted living homes, nursing homes, and the hospital, when doctored ordered, which is the case with my father. I have hired a health care provider at a nominal amount to provide this service. A small portion of my dad's \$2000 social

security benefit would cover the cost, but the Pioneer Homes will allow him to use these funds for medical expenses. There is a grant program available to residents on the stipend, but my dad has been repeatedly denied funding. The Permanent Fund, which is his "safety net", has been spent to pay for this service; his 2003 Permanent Fund is also spent, and he is destitute with no funds to pay for the service. By statute, a resident is allowed to choose his medical care and provider. My dad, son of Welsh-English immigrants, has taken nutritional supplements all of his life. At my dad's Care Conference 9/14/01, APH administration took away the administration of these supplements, which they had administered since 1997, claiming that Nursing Board Minutes dated Dec. 1998 precluded them from providing that service. Long-term Care Ombudsman J.R. Richards, Esq. termed this taking away of services (administering nutritional supplements, and transportation to Outpatient PT) retaliation for the Violation the Pioneer Home received on 8/21/01. I believe this was the Home's first Violation; my handicapped father, who cannot talk/push a call button/summon help, was left painfully restrained on a portable commode for one hour, as documented by video.

APH has pressured my dad's physician to cancel the order for his nutritional supplements, which she has refused to do because of the health benefits to my dad. Where, in your Safety Net Programs are there funds to pay his health care provider for continued service?

My father, an All-American soccer player, suffers pain from past injuries – for years the orthoped successfully prescribed use of APH's whirlpool/Jacuzzi for pain management. Without this service, my dad's brow is furrowed in pain, and he sleeps fitfully. APH's recent remodel replaced the whirlpool with expensive hi-tech sonic skin scaler tubs, which do not provide whirlpool pain management benefits. Without medical transportation, I have been unable to determine if my dad should find an off-premise Jacuzzi, seek massage therapy, or take pain medication, which the doctor is reluctant to prescribe because of possible interactions with other medications. Cost of additional medications/services will increase stipend debt for the Pioneer Homes. Replacing the sonic skin scaler tub with the whirlpool is a cost-effective kinder Eden-like way of treating our Seniors. Are there funds available in your Safety Net for my dad's pain management Jacuzzi?

Budget cutting is necessary, but not at the expense of care for our Seniors. Hiring more administrators and cutting direct care/providing insufficient direct care staff is not the way we should treat Alaskans. Trimming the budget should mean prioritizing services – certainly, a resident should not be denied medical care. How we treat our elders defines the type of care we will receive in our old age. My dad is a proud Veteran – I hope your Safety Net Programs can provide immediate assistance and save him from the embarrassment of seeking funds through church or VFW fundraisers to pay for his medical needs: medical transportation, administration of nutritional supplements, and pain management whirlpool/Jacuzzi therapy. I appreciate your time and look forward to a response from you regarding these issues.

CC: Loren Leman, Lt. Governor

Senator Hollis French

Senator Eric Croft

Senator Lyda Green

Senator Gary Wilkens

Senator Fred Dyson

Senator Gretchen Guess

Representative Ethan Berkowitz

Representative Les Gara

Representative Con Bunde

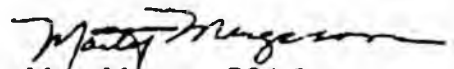
Representative Max Gruenberg

Commissioner Craig Campbell, Dept Military & Veteran Affairs

Ron Cowan, Office of the Long-term Care Ombudsman

CARING

Sincerely,



Marty Margeson, POA for  
Ret. Lt Commander William Margeson





# 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:

We here at the FCS vocational department feel that you fully don't understand the importance of DD funding. Without this funding DD consumers will be denied their links to the community. We will not be able to assist them in finding employment that will help them to be an active and contributing member of the community. Please reconsider your decision.

Signed: JOANNA BROWN, BEVERLY SAVAGE, PATRICK GIFFORD, FRANK MILLER  
Testifier SUSAN PETERSON, CHUCK DAVIS

Self  
Representing (optional)

43335 K-Beach Rd #36 Soldotna, AK 99669  
Address

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

As a consumer with a disability,  
I depend on the DD funding. Without  
the funding I will be home alone, Bored  
and lonely. the program helps me  
stay busy + keeps me safe.  
These funds help me learn <sup>living</sup> ~~domestic~~  
skills & the opportunity to interact in the  
community

Michelle Davidson  
Rich Peger  
Molly Joseph  
Rager Donohall  
(RANDALL)

43335 K-Beach Rd #36 Soldotna, AK 99669  
Address

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

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_

It is said that one knows where a country/state is on the evolutionary scale by the way it treats its unique people, i.e., the elderly, persons with disabilities, etc. The DD budget helps people live with dignity; do not take this away!

Sincerely,

Ginger Drais

Care Coordinator

Frontier Community Services

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Testifier

Self

Representing (optional)

43335 K-Beach Rd #36 Soldotna, AK 99669

Address

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

Dear Senator,

Please restore the \$1,200,000.00 to the Developmental Disability Grant Funds as they provide critical services to the disabled population of our state. Any changes need to be increases not decreases as the funds already fall short of the need.

Karen Stroh  
Care Coordinator for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Testifier

Self

Representing (optional)

43335 K-Beach Rd #36 Soldotna, AK 99669

Address

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 care coordinator of DD folks, I see the difference DD services makes in their lives. Many of the people I serve have NO family. With out funding for staff, they would be in crisis after crisis, some institutionalized, and many would be abused and taken advantage of in the community.

Joyce Williams  
Care Coordinator/Activity Coordinator

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Testifier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Self  
Representing (optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
43335 K-Beach Rd #36 Soldotna, AK 99669  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
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

I have a daughter with a severe disability. Without DD funding through the St. of Alaska. our family would NOT be together today. Please restore the 2.2 million dollars back to the DD general grant. The amount that is currently there is NOT enough for people with developmental disabilities.  
Thank you,  
Lynnette Haas

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Testifier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Self  
Representing (optional)

43335 K-Beach Rd #36 Soldotna, AK 99669  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
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

April 9, 2003

Dear Senator,

I am writing about a vital need for developmental disability programs in our communities. I genuinely have seen what a difference these programs make. Please, support restoring the Developmental Disability (DD) General Fund Base Grant. Without this funding, families will be torn apart and faced with expenses they already do not have.

Sincerely,

Jessica Glonek  
Community Supports Program Assistant

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Testifier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Self

\_\_\_\_\_  
Representing (optional)

43335 K-Beach Rd #36 Soldotna, AK 99669  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
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

I have had the opportunity to work with children that have significant developmental delays. Medicaid and other resources will be used as a "side stitch" to accommodate those specific needs if the DD budget is cut. It is our children that are being affected and they are our future. Please help us today!!!!

*Jane Aragon*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Testifier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Self  
Representing (optional)

43335 K-Beach Rd #36 Soldotna, AK 99669  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
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

As the parent of a child with multiple developmental disabilities, I know first hand the necessity for services. Such services help families stay together and function as other families do. Please restore the \$2.2 million in DD funding to help families who will be in crisis without the services these funds provide!!  
Cindy Deming

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Testifier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Self  
Representing (optional)

43335 K-Beach Rd #36 Soldotna, AK 99669  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
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

Please send the following POM to the list of Senators attached:

I urge you to restore the \$1,200,000 of underutilized funds to the Developmental Disability (DD) General Fund Base Grant budget line. Community Services are a cost effective way to provide the services necessary to keep families/individuals out of crisis without assessing more expensive Medicaid funded services. Wini Crosby

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Testifier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Self

\_\_\_\_\_  
Representing (optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
43335 K-Beach Rd #36 Soldotna, AK 99669

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
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

please dont take out  
spending away it would cause  
problems like my meds housing  
staff I would be on the street  
lose everything or go in a group home  
with I dont want to do think about  
it ok or I will die <sup>and</sup> sick please  
dont mess up my life ok thank-you  
for the help in the past

43335 K-Beach Rd #36

Soldotna, AK 99669

Address

Cindy P. Kukner



# 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

*Please, restore the funding  
because if you dont, I will not  
have any actives, and be in  
a group home setting if suck of  
and would not have a ~~job~~  
job.  
Thank you for your support  
in the past.*

*Ric Hunter*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Testifier

Self

Representing (optional)

4335 K-Beach Rd #36 Soldotna, AK 99669

Address

Phone number

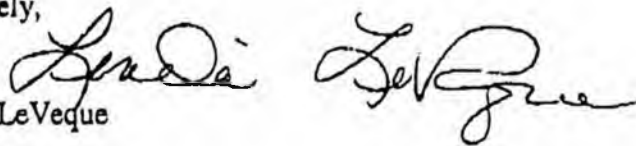
Linda LeVeque  
197 W. Corral St.  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
907-262-5675  
April 9, 2003

To Whom it Concern:

I am currently a foster mother for a boy with disabilities. It is because of the DD funding that I am able to provide a therapeutic home and supply him with the services he so desperately needs. It is because of this that he is now developing peer relations and inclusion could be part of his future. If this funding is removed I know for certain that I would be negatively affected, and that it then would affect the environment that my foster son has become so accustomed to. Please do not destroy what we have labored so hard to achieve these past two years.

Sincerely,

Linda LeVeque



**Subject: Senate Finance Committee Hearing**

**Date: Mon, 14 Apr 2003 19:25:31 -0600**

**From: "roguszka" <roguszka@myexcel.com>**

**To: <Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>**

I would like you to forward my comments on the fiscal gap issue to the Senate Finance Committee for its April 15-16 hearing. My comments are in my letter to you of March 15, 2003 as to my thoughts for a significant solution. You kindly responded to me via letter of April 1, 2003. That four page proposal, if applied to everyone using Alaska for whatever reason including corporations, would generate in excess of \$237,500.000 annually.

Eugene G. Roguszka  
4400 O'Malley Rd.,  
Anchorage, AK 99507

(Bunde)  
C

**Senator Con Bunde  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182**

**Senator Bunde:**

**In response to your e-mail of March 11, 2003 requesting my thoughts as to the best solution to Alaska's fiscal gap, I propose the adoption of an "Alaska Universal User Fee". Within the criteria of my proposal, that fee could generate at least \$237,500,000 annually.**

- 1. The fee would apply to every person using Alaska for what ever reason, i.e., living here as a resident or non-resident, visiting as a tourist, entering and spending some time as a salesman, contractor (including all contractor personnel), consultant, working as an off-shore or on-shore fisherman, out-of-state oil field worker—just to name a handful of typical users.**
- 2. The fee would effectively be a monthly fee.**
- 3. The fee would be voluntary for the first 48 hours of an arrival in Alaska. It could be voluntary for the 11th and 12th months of a consecutive period related to a calendar year. For all other time, the fee would be mandatory and due.**
- 4. As a condition of adopting the "Alaska Universal User Fee", both the Permanent Fund Distribution Program and the Longevity Bonus Program would continue, basically in accord with present practices.**
- 5. Fees due could be deducted from the Permanent Fund Dividend, through payroll deduction, as a surcharge on airplane tickets, and as a payment at a port of entry of a vehicle or boat. Some users might be difficult to reach such as "outside" fishermen of the Bering Sea; however, I believe, these people could be reached via fish landings.**
- 6. Duplication must be avoided. Accordingly, a receipt would be issued to a recipient of a PFD check (if the fee was deducted therein) to avoid a**

payroll deduction covering the same calendar period. A decal, or similar device, would be issued to a motorhome/car visitor upon entering Alaska to avoid a citation by a law enforcement officer.

7. With the "Alaska Universal User Fee" in place, some other proposals might not be necessary, i.e., annual school tax, state wildlife conservation pass, the seasonal sales tax, and discontinuation of the Longevity Bonus Program---that program will phase itself out soon enough if one carefully reads the obituary pages.

8. The "Alaska Universal User Fee" might be in the range of \$15 to \$25 per month.

Some basic statistics should be noted:

o The population of Alaska in the year 2002 was 643,786; this was a healthy increase from 633,630 in the year 2001. The increase was 1.6%.

o The number of paid PFD applicants was 587,518 in 2002 vs. 581,509 in 2001. This was an increase of only 1.0%

o The number of non-resident workers was 67,963 in 2001; resident workers were 301,881 which does not include federal employees and the self employed---some of whom probably were paid the PFD.

o The number of visitors (arrivals to Alaska) between October 2001 and September 2002 was well over 1,500,000 people; this does not include resident arrivals.

Based on a user fee of, say, \$25 per month, the revenue generated annually would be:

o PFD applicants 587, 518 @ \$250 each	\$146,900,000
o Residents (non-PFD recipients) 56,268 @ \$250 each	\$14,100,000



o Non-resident workers who work full time, say 50% of 67,963 @ \$250 each	\$ 8,500,000
o Non-resident workers who work less than full time, say 50% of 67,963 @ \$25 per month for 6 month average	\$ 5,100,000
o Visitors of 1,500,000, say, 10% for 2 months @ \$25	\$ 7,500,000
o Visitors of 1,500,000, say, 90% for 1 month @ \$25	\$33,800,000
o Sub-Total	\$215,900,000
o It is not unrealistic to add a contingency of 10% to cover growth in 2003 and to expect identification of additional users not herein noted. Further refine- ment of data by more intimately knowledgeable people within the government may add even more. Add 10% of \$215,900,000	\$ 21,600,000
o Total	\$237,500,000

At a rate of \$20, the revenue generated would be \$190,000,000; at a rate of \$15, the annual revenue would be \$142,500,000. Each \$1.00

would generate \$9,500,000.

**This illustrates my view that we individually and collectively have an obligation to support reasonable levels and sizes of state services. In my earlier letter to you, I expressed opposition to elimination of the Longevity Bonus Program now because that would have placed a major share of the financial burden on a very small increment of the population.**

**The above approach is one of fairness and equality in sharing the cost without an excessive burden to each of us. No one person or group is singled out for special treatment.**

**I am available to discuss this proposal further.**

**Sincerely,**



**Eugene G. Roguszka**

**4400 O'Malley Road**

**Anchorage, Alaska 99507-6524**

**Phone 907-346-1024; Fax 907-346-1074**

**E-Mail: [roguszka@myexcel.com](mailto:roguszka@myexcel.com)**

**March 15, 2003**

**Subject: Re: Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget**

**Date:** Sun, 13 Apr 2003 13:34:45 -0700 (PDT)

**From:** doug hill <deeryard2001@yahoo.com>

**To:** Con Bunde <Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>

Senator Bunde,

Thank you for the updates that you send to us, your constituents.

It seems that the ruling class in Juneau erroneously believes that we have to dismantle (HB 191, EO 107) the ability to protect the very things that make Alaska rich - our lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, riparian zones, etc. in order to cut state spending. I would gladly relinquish my PFD and pay taxes in order to maintain the quality of Alaska's habitat. You can't have fish and wildlife without habitat. Don't you treat your home and your yard like some of the poor resource extraction companies and contractors treat the country in the vicinity of their projects. When are folks going to stand up and treat the country with some respect.

I will support responsible development and responsible politicians. I grew up in a Republican family and have voted undeclared as an adult. I have voted for whom I felt was the best candidate (Republican and Democrat). But, after witnessing the fiasco with regard to EO 107 and HB 191/SB 143 I plan to do all I can to assist any party other than the Republican party in the future. EO 107 and HB 191/SB 143 are just two examples of situations where there WAS NO LEGITIMATE OR INTELLIGENT CASE, YET THE VAST MAJORITY OF REPUBLICANS WERE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES - THEY LOCK STEPPED TO THE MURKOWSKI BEAT IN SPITE OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT. Until a Republican can show me they are working for the state and not special interests, I will join the growing ranks of anti-republicans.

It is time to dissolve the two party system. I am tired of Democrat and Republican partisan politics.

Thank you for your time and efforts,  
Doug Hill  
Constituent

Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us wrote:

Dear Neighbors,

Budget reductions are difficult because they have real impacts on some Alaskans. That is frustrating after twenty years of not having to address that reality. However, it's my considered opinion that if we do not address the reductions and the revenues necessary to fill our fiscal gap, Alaska's economy will experience a drastic downturn that will have a negative impact on business, state services, and all citizens alike.

That's the long way to say that while no one likes it when a program they use and/or value is cut, and no one likes the prospect of new taxes or fees, most of us recognize that if the State continues to spend more money than it has, we'll be in deep financial trouble that will require very deep cuts to core services plus higher taxes than are currently proposed. Plus, perhaps, even the loss of our PFDs.

The House has passed their version of the Governor's budget proposal to the Senate, which

**Subject: Re: Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget**

**Date:** Sun, 13 Apr 2003 16:22:36 -0800

**From:** M&J Coulombe <coulombe@gci.net>

**To:** Con Bunde <Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>

Con - CUT CUT CUT!!! Cut the Longevity Bonus and anything else we can possibly do!! Support the Governor's proposals!

----- Original Message -----

From: Con Bunde

To: Legislative Update

Sent: Friday, April 11, 2003 5:11 PM

Subject: Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget

Dear Neighbors,

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While you have doubtless read about the more controversial budget proposals in the newspaper, I encourage you to review the Senate Finance Subcommittees' Close-out Reports for yourself at <http://www.legfin.state.ak.us/> and take the time to offer your comments to the full committee. You can do so during the public comment teleconference. If you cannot get to the teleconference, but would like to comment, please contact me, preferably in writing by fax or e-mail, and I will be happy to forward your comments to the committee for the record.

Con

*All addresses are "blind" for your privacy. A strict "no spam" policy is observed. If you don't wish to receive "Legislative Update," just let me know. If you know a friend or neighbor who has not received "Legislative Update" but would like to be included, I will be glad to include them (if they contact me). Your replies, comments, questions, and/or suggestions are welcome. Constituent comments on legislation and policy issues may be tabulated, shared with other legislators, or quoted in speeches. Names, however, will be kept private.*

**Subject: RE: Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget**

**Date:** Mon, 14 Apr 2003 12:45:03 -0500

**From:** "Townsend, Monte A" <TownseMA@BP.com>

**To:** "Con Bunde" <Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>

Con,

Just a quick note in response. And I am your neighbor - physically, as our property joins each other on Goldenview.

Please maintain your stance on reducing spending, even though it means cuts to services. I favor user fees, substantial ones if necessary. Then we can more appropriately make the decision of how much we want to pay for. I do not agree with monies going into a general fund to then be distributed.

The suggested reduction by the governor is good. Please support. Personally I would even push harder on trying to take out expenses this year.

A little good news. Compared to many other States our budget is much better off!

Thanks for working hard.

Monte Townsend

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Con Bunde [mailto:Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us]

**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2003 5:12 PM

**To:** Legislative Update

**Subject:** Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget

Dear Neighbors,

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**Subject: RE: Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget**

**Date:** Mon, 14 Apr 2003 11:07:58 -0800

**From:** "Carman, John" <JCarman@homestatemtg.com>

**To:** 'Con Bunde' <Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you for the information. Please pass my comments on to the committee. As O'Riley would say I will try to be Pithy when I Opine.

I have lived in Alaska since 1971 - I am in the banking industry and have seen many booms and busts. I agree with you completely that an adjustment should be made in smaller amounts earlier rather than large drastic amounts later. I also firmly believe that the purpose of the permanent fund was to fund government. The only way you can justify taxing one group of Alaskans while you are paying out "excess" money to another group is if you believe the purpose of government is to redistribute income. In that case you also need to move to a socialist country - but you better move quick because they are all failing rapidly. No argument of 'Fairness' makes any sense - why is it more fair to tax a working, contributing, Alaskan that has lived here for many years rather than take part of a pfd from a 10 year old that moved here from Los Angeles last year ?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Con Bunde [mailto:Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us]

**Sent:** April 11, 2003 5:12 PM

**To:** Legislative Update

**Subject:** Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget

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Con

**Subject: Re: Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget**

**Date:** Sun, 13 Apr 2003 08:58:12 -0800

**From:** Dianne Holmes <dianeh@corecom.net>

**To:** Con Bunde <Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>

Con,

I have looked at part of the Close-out reports and while they are of course very confusing to the average citizen, I have some questions:

Regarding the fire suppression funds--it appears there is a lot of new funding especially for 'preparedness.' What will those funds actually be used for?

Also I see in the Ed budget that the funding for "ward of the state" has been eliminated which will affect the larger cities such as Anchorage. I assume that DFYS is still responsible for child abuse and neglect, so I would assume that funding would still be needed for those children who become wards of the state. I am not sure what funding DFYS has for such needs or why the Ed budget has/had this program, but I would think DFYS can't do their job without means to deal with 'wards.' What does this mean?

I did not see anything about Community Schools in the budget but may have missed it. You know that CS gives the whole state the biggest bang for the buck and probably should be under mental health. Sometimes such low cost programs are the only healthy social outlet that families have. New-to-the-state families & those where English is not their first language may use CS as their only social outlet for becoming familiar with a strange climate. Anything that can be done to help volunteers carry out this critical program should be encouraged as we all benefit in the end with a healthier society. The program should not be deleted from the statutes (like was planned, I believe) and some, even minor, funding should be given to help keep this program alive so that it can be revived more fully when our next Prudhoe comes in.

Dianne Holmes

**Subject: Re: Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget**

**Date:** Sun, 13 Apr 2003 08:20:04 -0800

**From:** Steve Henslee <shenslee@juno.com>

**To:** Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us

Con,

I agree with your recent e-mail and I agree the PFD will go away, but not now. The legislature has shown no fiscal responsibility to date and their only solution has been to find more money. With this mind set, the permanent fund will not be permanent for long. You say we have not had to deal with reality. Allowing access to the permanent fund prior to real fiscal decisions being made and before someone stands up to take leadership in the legislature (this does not include Pete Kott), access to the permanent fund will only continue the dream world. If you think we have problems now, what will it look like when there is no permanent fund?

I fully support the governor's budget, please support it in Juneau. I know it's tough, but now is the opportunity to lead.

Steve Henslee



**Subject: Re: Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget**

**Date:** Fri, 11 Apr 2003 20:04:20 -0800 (Alaskan Standard Time)

**From:** "FINKLE" <finkle@arctic.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Bunde,

When the surplus is gone, it's gone. When the special programs of reward are out of money, then they too are gone. That will eventually include the PFD which I personally feel should be applied to the infra structure of Alaska. I guess the question is, will the political climate use PFD wisely or bring the "pork" back to their constituents without the greater interest of Alaska at heart? I think the public thinks the legislature is not capable of the greater good when local interests pull off resources needed for state wide benefit.

There are no free rides. If people want improvements and a social structure supportive of their life style, then taxes are required to provide that elevated level of living (i.e. roads, education, harbors and trade)

I don't think paying the bills has much to do with developing new economic opportunities. However, if you don't pay the bills then you've got a debt which has a negative impact on every aspect of living in the state. Paying the bills has everything to do with the maintenance of the state, its programs and its ability to give our citizens what they have come to expect as a given without paying the "fiddler." Something has to give. It's time to pay the fiddler. I am not familiar with the detailed aspects of the Governor's budget proposal. Regardless, if the public has to chip in to maintain our level of maintenance and operation, then so be it.

Rod Finkle

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Con Bunde

**Date:** Friday, April 11, 2003 17:15:27

**To:** Legislative Update

**Subject:** Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget

Dear Neighbors,

Budget reductions are difficult because they have real impacts on some Alaskans. That is frustrating after twenty years of not having to address that reality. However, it's my considered opinion that if we do not address the reductions and the revenues necessary to fill our fiscal gap, Alaska's economy will experience a drastic downturn that will have a negative impact on business, state services, and all citizens alike.

That's the long way to say that while no one likes it when a program they use and/or value is cut, and no one likes the prospect of new taxes or fees, most of us recognize that if the State continues to spend more money than it has, we'll be in deep financial trouble that will require very deep cuts to core services plus higher taxes than are currently proposed. Plus, perhaps, even the loss of our PFDs.

The House has passed their version of the Governor's budget proposal to the Senate, which has also been considering their version in various subcommittees. **The Senate Finance Committee will be taking public comment on their proposed budget from around the state April 15-16. Anchorage residents**

**Subject: Response to Legislative Update**

**Date:** Mon, 14 Apr 2003 21:50:25 -0800

**From:** "Jenny Redick & Regan Sarwas" <jnr@alaska.net>

**To:** "Con Bunde" <Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>

Hi Con:

Thanks for the great job keeping your constituents informed. We appreciate it.

Regarding the budget reductions, we find it incredible that the Republican legislature is unable to end a welfare program for wealthy older Alaskans while simultaneously cutting funding for the care and education of our young.

Given our limited resources, why are we reducing our investment in the most vulnerable portion of our population (the segment of the population that will return that investment in the future), while maintaining our expenditures on the members of our community that, as a whole, are already well provided for?

The answer to that question is blatantly obvious to voters. Legislators are pandering to those with the most political clout even if they have the least need. It is distressing to us that thoughtful, responsible leadership in this area is so lacking. What kind of message is this sending about our priorities? What kind of future are we helping to build for our community?

We know that budget cuts are necessary at this time. We hope that you will be a voice of reason during this process.

Sincerely,  
Regan Sarwas and Jenny Redick

**Subject: Re: Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget**

**Date:** Fri, 11 Apr 2003 17:19:24 -0800

**From:** Gary Miller <gary.miller@alaska.com>

**To:** Con Bunde <Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>

We agree, it's time to get real, start with an income tax, reduce pfd and use balance toward necessary state expenses. We cannot just cut our way to insanity which the current direction. We are more than willing to pay more taxes!

Gary and Susan Miller

**From:** Con Bunde <Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>

**Organization:** Alaska State Legislature

**Date:** Fri, 11 Apr 2003 17:11:38 -0800

**To:** Legislative Update <lsncbun+legupdate@legis.state.ak.us>

**Subject:** Legislative Update - Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget

Dear Neighbors,

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While you have doubtless read about the more controversial

**Subject: Senate Finance to Take Public Comment on the Budget**

**Date: Mon, 14 Apr 2003 22:15:57 -0900**

**From: leewilson@gci.net**

**To: Con Bunde <Senator\_Con\_Bunde@Legis.state.ak.us>**

Lee Wilson  
9621 Hillside Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507-6010  
907-346-3669  
leewilson@gci.net  
4/14/2003  
Senate Budget Subcommittee Closeouts

I am unable to make the call in on Tuesday  
Please accept my comments courtesy of Senator Con  
Bundy.

Governor Murkowski was elected on a pro-  
education campaign among other promises. Cuts to the  
foundation program, transportation and library  
operations are unacceptable. We are asking the  
schools to do more than ever with more accountability  
than ever yet they continue to perform well by any  
measure. These cuts undermine education achievement  
and begin a decline to less than excellent schooling.

The University of Alaska is just regaining its  
footing. Public confidence is just returning. Cuts  
now will undermine program and progress.

The Habitat division must remain with fish  
and Game. The governor clearly does not understand  
that Fish and Game has the best long range look at  
how development affects habitat and how bes

t to  
mitigate damage. Murkowski told us a lot of mis-  
truth about his proposal. I smell a skunk, it reeks  
of outright forestry favoritism. The director of  
DNR came from where?

Close the state chemistry lab in Juneau?  
Doesn't that just tie the hands of environmental  
enforcement?

Safe communities are the heart of democratic  
society. How can a cut of \$4,193.9 be good for my  
family and our neighbors?

How can \$511.7 be subtracted from Motor Vehicles  
without a fee increase to maintain current level of  
service?

# 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

distributed by Sen. Bunde



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the \_\_\_Senate Finance Committee  
(committee name)

committee on \_\_Budget/PFD/CBR\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm a Board Member of Alaska Voters Organization. My name is Laurie Churchill. I am very concerned with the large amount of money which has raided from our Constitutional Budget Reserve. This CBR was only meant to be a rainy day account. Its supposed to be repaid. Alaska's economy is depending on you to vote NO for any spending that is not constitutionally mandated. We have schools that may have to close. I have never seen more people moving out of state as there are this spring. We are losing a large population of people this year. Gasoline prices are outrageous!!! Jobs are scarce. Enacting new taxes is the last thing these people of Alaska need. Our Representatives need to stop spending our tax money on anything outside of the Constitutionally mandated requirements. The deficit spending needs to stop. If these special interest legislation bills are not being passed and the deficit spending was under control, then our State would not have any need for new taxes. Stop wasting our tax money on bills that only help lobbyists and some select few with their own special interests. The people of Alaska elected you. Stop trying to get into our PFD!

Laurie Churchill  
PO Box 7043  
Nikiski, AK 99635

776-3499

# Cook Inlet Historical Society

April 14, 2003

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Senator Gary Wilken, Co-Chair (Fax 465-4714)

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Senator Robin Taylor (Fax 465-3922)

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Senator Lyman Hoffman (Fax 465-4453)

Senator Donny Olson (Fax 465-4821)

Dear Senator:

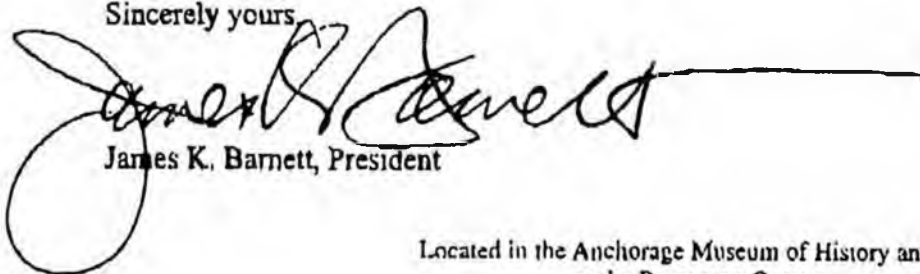
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Sincerely yours,



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

RECEIVED

MAR 24 2003

**PLEASE ADD TO PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Paul Brynner  
626 "N" Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
277-7967 / 337-1981

20 March 2003

Dear Senator Green:

**It has come to my attention that the Governor's proposed budget includes a cut of 10% to the Department of Labor's Adult Basic Education funding, as well as the elimination of the Human Services Matching Grant (HSMG).** Both of these cuts would impede valuable services to the state, such as those provided by the Anchorage Literacy Project. If these cuts take effect, there will be an alarming increase in Alaska residents who lack the basic literacy skills to support themselves. This will be a significant burden to the economy and health of the state.

I have included a series of letters written by students of the Anchorage Literacy Project; all of these students have a substantial investment in our continued services. I hope that you will review these letters carefully and also review the case I'm presenting in this letter for restoration of HSMG and ABE funding to the budget. I hope that you act as soon as possible to champion the interests of Alaska as served by programs like the Anchorage Literacy Project.

The Anchorage Literacy Project is taking an active role in creating an adult-basic-education infrastructure for the entire state.

- The Anchorage Literacy Project is Alaska's only teacher-training program certified in the Laubach method, the most comprehensive method for imparting basic reading and writing skills to adult learners.
- The Anchorage Literacy Project regularly trains instructors from programs serving communities around the state, including Homer, Valdez, Glenallen, Nome, Bethel, and Kodiak.
- The Anchorage Literacy Project leads staff development workshops at the annual Professional Development Conference, attended by trainers from around the state of Alaska.



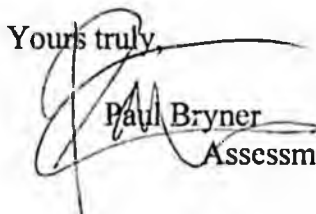
- The Anchorage Literacy Project provides training and consultation which helps literacy programs statewide meet the rigorous federal standards of assessment and reporting for Adult Basic Education.

**These services are all made possible by ABE funding and the HSMG grant.** These services cannot be duplicated by any organization currently working in the state. **If these services are cut, the rate of functional illiteracy in Alaska will rise.** This will have severe consequences. The functionally illiterate are much more likely to become dependents of the state. The functionally illiterate are easily victimized, and are extremely vulnerable to accidents and medical problems due to an inability to read signs and simple instructions. Children of the functionally illiterate face severe disadvantages learning basic skills. It is difficult for the functionally illiterate to enter the workforce; therefore, any increase in functional illiteracy will result in an increased crime rate. When the functionally illiterate do enter the workforce, they represent a great burden to corporations' productivity and profit, demanding more staff supervision and causing more workplace accidents than functionally literate employees.

The monies the Anchorage Literacy Project receives from ABE funding and the HSMG support four part-time staff positions. These staff positions support a program of 189 volunteers who generate \$1,177,417 in in-kind labor, goods, and services annually, instructing a total of 800 students a year. These students gain literacy skills which enable entrance to Alaska's workforce. The Anchorage Literacy Project serves students other programs cannot, including students who start with absolutely no literacy skills and students who require home tutoring. Anchorage Literacy Project students who have met their goals have gone on to employment in all of Alaska's major industries, including resource development, transportation, tourism, medicine, and education. This represents a great value to the state of Alaska, and I think you'll find it is money well spent.

There are alternatives to cutting ABE funding and the HSMG. These include a slight increase to the proposed head tax, or use of the money from felons' PFD. I hope that you will recognize the value of the work that the Anchorage Literacy Project and other programs carries out, and that you will do everything possible to champion restoration of this valuable funding. Please feel free to contact me with any response or questions.

Yours truly,



Paul Bryner

Assessment Specialist, Anchorage Literacy Project

# Anchorage Literacy Project

## Student Letters

Please admit all to public  
testimony

Cheri Hung  
2806 Brittany Drive  
Anchorage, AK 9904

Dear Representative Anderson:

My name is Cheri Hung. I came from Taiwan. I came to Anchorage four months ago. I live with my aunt.

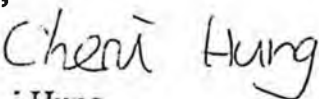
The teachers and staff of Anchorage Literacy Project always teach and work hard for every student. They are quite dedicated. It's important that there is a organization to help people who come to the new place - Alaska. It's even more important to teach people how to support themselves.

English literacy is the basic job skill. If we couldn't study in ALP in the future, we couldn't expect to have a job one day. It will be a problem that some people don't have a job. More expansion, more alcohol problems . . . problems we won't figure out without an organization like ALP.

So I think ALP is a very important organization to me and society. Today I receive the care of ALP, tomorrow I would like to be a volunteer. Because I really appreciate ALP and Alaska's government.

Please don't cut HSMG and Adult Basic Education spending. It's important to me.

Yours truly,

  
Cheri Hung

Young Suk Park  
1703 Northwestern  
Anchorage 99508

Dear Senator Guess:

I am Young Suk Park.  
I'm from South Korea.  
I've been live in Anchorage during 8 months.  
Anchorage is good for me.  
At first I didn't speak English.  
My friend introduce in Anchorage Literacy Project.  
So I am studying at ALP.  
ALP help me many things.  
If I can speak English I'll get a job.  
I'm proud of ALP the staff and volunteer.  
I come in here every day.  
Studying here has expanded my views of the world.  
And I understand USA now.  
I want to meet many friends at here.  
I'll hope ALP is forever . . . .

Sincerely,

  
Young Suk

Dear Senator Ellis :

My name is Lin-Lung Chung . I come

from Taiwan . I come to <sup>the</sup> Anchorage

~~since~~ since 2001 May for my company

(China Air Line) send <sup>me</sup> to the Anchorage  
branch ~~branch~~ . I'm Anchorage literacy project's

student . .

- Studying here has expanded my views of the world .
- It helps us getting better for jobs .
- It's important for understand American culture .

So please don't cut the HSMG and ABE

spending

Sincerely  
Regards

Rgds

Myra Franky

Sim-Jung Chung

MAR-11-2003

My address is 1040 W 29th AVE Anchorage. APT #419