

Your Name: Ron Keffer

Your Email: ron.keffer01@gmail.com

Subject: Overturning Vetoes

Message:

Several people have told me that those assembly members who side with the mayor are impervious to persuasion, even when it's compelling. "Don't waste your time," they said. Well, I believe that every person who will at least lend an ear - an obligation of any assembly member - can and will respond appropriately when important issues call out to them. After all, exercising independent judgment is the main expectation of each assembly person.

It should be crystal clear that the single most important investment any governmental agency can make is the one that focuses on people. No other asset is more important and nothing improves the lives of individuals or of a community more, in the long run, than those made in education. Data says this loudly again and again. If the dollar amounts seem large, consider the return. Educated people produce at a higher level. A skilled electrician truly is worth his weight in gold in our society, but she or he first has to learn to read, write, do math, and reason. Whenever we diminish our investment into our K - 12 system of education - well, we truly are shooting ourselves in our feet. Since the horizon with which we're dealing is years in the future, it's easy to pooh-poo the effects, but they are real. Consider your own children and grandchildren. Please recognize that fully funding education is essential to the well-being of every borough citizen. I do know that as I age, more and more I do not want to live in a community of poorly educated citizens, and I sincerely hope you have the same attitude.

Here in Homer, many of my friends and acquaintances are engaged in work that involves tourists. Some are in the business of charter fishing and others run shops, lodging, and other businesses that cater to visitors from places from Anchorage to Kalamazoo. Those with whom I have chatted all tell me that the tourist promotion dollars appropriated by the borough have played a very important role in making the businesses that depend upon tourism a vital part of our borough community. In other words, without that promotion, our business community suffers and loses customers.

I urge every assembly person to vote to overturn the mayor's vetoes of funding for education and tourism. This vote is hugely important to many of the people you represent, and I hope you'll hear our voices.

Sincerely,

Ron Keffer
189 Island View Court
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-8293
ron.keffer01@gmail.com

Your Name: LYNN TAKEOKA SPENCE

Your Email: ltakeokaspence@gmail.com

Subject: Mayor's Veto: School Funding and Tourism

Message:

Dear Assembly,

As elected officials, I hope we can count on you to recognize the value of education for our youth. The public school system was established and evolved so the entire population of Americans would be educated to be more productive members of society. These students are future voters and decision

makers who will make choices that affect our lives. I encourage you to override the Mayor's veto to education funding. Our most valuable resource is people and it is up to us to value them by providing the best educational opportunities we can so they will have the skills to make the Kenai Peninsula continue to thrive in the future.

I also encourage you to override the Mayor's veto to Tourism funding. Tourism is an economic driver on the Kenai that supports many families and communities. Word of mouth will not fill our charter boats, restaurants, B&Bs, outdoor recreation and sightseeing businesses, small shops, and campgrounds. Advertising is a key factor in getting people to the Kenai and the Borough as our local gov't needs to support our business community by advertising that the Kenai is a great place to visit.

Thank you.

From: McKibben Jackinsky [<mailto:mckibben.jackinsky@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2018 11:01 PM

To: Ogle, Wayne <wogle@kpb.us>; Bagley, Dale <dalebagley@kpb.us>; Blakeley, Norm <NBlakeley@kpb.us>; Carpenter, Kenn <KCarpenter@kpb.us>; Cooper, Kelly <kellycooper@kpb.us>; Dunne, Willy <WDunne@kpb.us>; Fischer, Paul <pfischer@kpb.us>; Hibbert, Brent <bhibbert@kpb.us>; Smalley, Hal <HSmalley@kpb.us>

Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>; Pierce, Charlie <CPierce@kpb.us>

Subject: KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

July 5, 2018

KPB Assembly President Wayne

KPB Assembly Vice President Dale Bagley

KPB Assembly Members Norm Blakeley, Kenn Carpenter, Kelly Cooper, Willy Dunne, Paul Fischer, Brent Hibbert, Hal Smalley

We are writing to encourage you to please override Mayor Charlie Pierce's veto of budget amendments that would remove \$652,000 support for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and \$206,000 for the Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council. According to the Peninsula Clarion, Pierce's veto was based on (1) the assembly not agreeing on where the \$858,000 would come from and (2) not agreeing with KPTMC on how they should market.

According to the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District's 2017 Situation and Prospects – the most recent available on KPEDD's website – the borough has a school district to be proud of: "The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is a top performer in Alaska. Test scores and graduation rates beat state averages, dropout rates are less, and a national school ranking website identifies it as the 4th top school district in Alaska. Teaching excellence in the borough school district includes 2016-2017 Alaska Teacher-of-the-Year, the alternate, and the Alaska Humanities Teacher-of-the-Year." Superintendent Sean Dusek said the \$652,000 was intended to hire counselors to work with younger students in support of mental health. In other words, it would make the district and its ability to address the needs of borough children even better. The borough's children are its future. Reducing this support is like cutting off our own nose to spite our face.

This week – a spectacularly beautiful 4th of July week in terms of weather – everywhere we've looked on the southern peninsula (Soldotna to Homer) has proven what a hot tourist spot this is. License plates from other states and countries. RVs bearing stickers from Anchorage rental companies. Foreign accents. Beaches covered with tents. Parking places that couldn't be found. Again referring to KPEDD's 2017 Situation and Prospects, "In 2016, tourism remained steady on the Peninsula and was an economic bright spot. The number of visitors to the Peninsula rose and industry-related sales, employment, and wages all increased. ... Tourism promises to be a growing advantage for the Kenai Peninsula, which caters to other Southcentral Alaska visitors, US travelers, and a growing international tourist market." Tourism's gross business sales were \$271 million in 2015 and increased to \$276 million in 2016. If this weekend is any judge of what 2018 will be like, we can safely assume a continued increase. For the mayor to withdraw financial support from marketing experts because he thinks they should market differently doesn't seem to make sense.

Kenai Peninsula Borough's children and its tourism industry are too important to become fiscal sticking points. Please restore the funding.

Sylvester D. Mazen
McKibben Jackinsky
4001 El Sarino Court
Homer, AK 99603

Cc: Charlie Pierce, KPB Mayor
Johni Blankenship, KPB Clerk

Your Name: Lilly Rytterski

Your Email: lrytterski@yahoo.com

Subject: Veto of school and tourism

Message:

Our children and tourism are 2 of the 3 most important issues in Homer. The 3rd being fishing. These should be kept healthy.

Your Name: Anne Wieland

Your Email: agpacsu@yahoo.com

Subject: School and tourism funding

Message:

Please vote to overturn the Mayor's vetoes of more than \$600,000 in school funding and also essential funding for promoting tourism. Nothing is more important than our children's education. Tourism is one of the constant mainstays of our state. We need funding for this very important cause.

From: Gary Whiteley [<mailto:gary.whiteley@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2018 1:55 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>
Subject: please forward

Hi Johni:

Please forward the message below to assembly members. Thanks!

I encourage you to override the veto by Mayor Pierce to cuts made to both tourism and education. These cuts are poorly timed and not necessary.

Just say YES to override when asked to vote!

Thanks!

Gary Whiteley
212 Susieana St.
Kenai, Alaska 99611
907.394.4445

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

From: Harold Spence [<mailto:hobig@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Friday, July 06, 2018 4:58 PM

To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>

Subject: Budget

Hello Assembly Members,

I urge you to do the right thing and veto the mayor's ill-conceived cuts to education and tourism.

Sincerely,
Hal Spence

Homer
907-299-1798
Sent from my iPhone

From: Lani Raymond [<mailto:lanibirder@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, July 06, 2018 4:14 PM

To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>

Subject: Override both vetoes

[Please distribute to all Assembly Members. Thanks.](#)

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly members,
I am extremely upset that the borough mayor has vetoed funding for the Kenai Peninsula School District and the Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Counsel.

We need the strongest public education system we can get for the future of our kids, grandkids here on the Kenai Peninsula. It is a basic responsibility of government and the Borough is shirking its duty by cutting this funding and doing so in such an abrupt manner.

Tourism is, and should be into the future, an important part of the economics here in our area. To gut this program does not make any sense.

I recommend that you override the borough mayor's veto for both of these: education and Tourism and Marketing.

Thank you.

Lynda Raymond
41640 Gladys Ct
Homer, AK