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VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2 BY AND FOR FREEDOM LOVING ALASKANS



Maximum Sustainable Yield: **FY 2015 Update**
by Scott Goldsmith

This is the third update of a series we began in 2012, estimating how much Alaska’s state government can afford to spend, without risking sudden big budget deficits and economic hardships for Alaskans in the near future. Those problems are looming because oil revenues currently pay almost all the bills for public services—and oil production has been dropping since the late 1980s. But Alaska can extend the benefits from oil, by adding to the Permanent Fund and other financial accounts—so the earnings from financial accounts can increasingly take the place of petroleum revenues. Those revenues are expected to keep dropping, even with revenues from new oil sources and from a potential gas pipeline.

Summary

- Alaska’s state government can afford to spend about \$5 billion from the unrestricted General Fund in fiscal year 2015, increasing with population growth and inflation in the following years. i That estimate is based on the state’s current \$139 billion petroleum nest egg—a combination of \$65 billion in financial accounts and \$74 billion in expected oil revenues.
- By saving any incoming oil revenues or financial earnings above that \$5 billion level, the state could build up the Permanent Fund and other financial assets faster than petroleum revenues decline.
- This estimate of sustainable spending is nearly 10% lower than our estimate of \$5.5 billion for fiscal year 2014, due to two factors—a big drop in the Alaska Department of Revenue’s projection of future petroleum revenues from conventional oil, and a large draw on the state’s cash reserve to cover the actual fiscal year 2013 and anticipated fiscal year 2014 deficits.

The governor’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2015 is \$5.6 billion, down from \$7.2 billion last year. But assuming the

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"Laws that forbid the carrying of arms... disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

Cesare Beccaria's Essay on Crimes and Punishments

final budget will be about \$6 billion, after legislative add-ons, it is still not sustainable. If this year's spending is \$6 billion ("business as usual" in the graph), and it grows at an annual rate just 1% faster than population and inflation, the cash reserves

(not including the Permanent Fund) would be exhausted by 2024 and the fiscal gap could reach \$3.5 billion.

But if the fiscal year 2015 budget were \$5 billion, and it grew only as fast as population and inflation ("maximum sustainable yield" in the graph), the cash reserves would last much longer and a growing petroleum nest egg could produce enough earnings to sustain the state budget long into the future.

Complete article is available on line at the following web address .

http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/Publications/webnote/2014_01-WebNote16-MaximumSustainableYield.pdf



The Role of the Gates Foundation in Alaska's Standards Writing Process

Barbara Haney Ph.D. Tue, Jan 14, 2014 www.stopalaskacommoncore.com

Much has been said in the media about the role of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the implementation and promotion of the Common Core State Standards. This article examines the pattern of donations in an Alaskan context and in the context of the groups that were heavily involved in the standards writing process to ensure the "new" Alaska State Standards were the Common Core Standards or close enough to those standards to effectually be those standards.

Given the relatively high investment mandated by the Common Core Consortium of Alaskans, along with the 2 student to one computer ratio, the involvement of technology businesses in promoting the common core is of clear interest to all Alaskans.

The groups examined are the groups listed in the validation letter by Patrick Gamble, UA President to U.S. DOE Secretary Arne Duncan. Those groups are: AK-DEED, Alaska Council of School Administrators (to which almost every member of the school board belongs), the University of Alaska, Achieve Inc., NCIEA, the Council of Chief State School Officers, National Education Association, & PTA. The validation letter is in an appendix to the 1,000 page No Child Left Behind Waiver, aka The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)Waiver

AK-DEED

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation made contributions, not campaign contributions, but direct contributions to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (AK-DEED) that coincided with the development of the Alaska Common Core Standards.

Essentially, the Gates Foundation "bribed" AK-DEED. A monetary award of \$1.67 Million was given by the Gates Foundation to AK DEED on October 2, 2010. This is shortly after the state of Alaska contracted with Achieve, Inc. to begin the standards writing process.

Alaska Council of School Administrators

But the Gates Money didn't stop with the AK-DEED. They also gave substantial sums, over \$5 Million, the years preceding the process. They essentially purchased the professional organization to which Alaska's administrators belong: The Alaska Council of School Administrators.

For those unaware who these folks are, they are an umbrella organization that organizes the "legislative fly-in" for four groups:

Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals



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GRANTEE	YEAR ▼	ISSUE	PROGRAM	AMOUNT
Alaska Council of School Administrators	2009 and earlier	College-Ready	US Program	\$345,592
Alaska Council of School Administrators	2009 and earlier	College-Ready	US Program	\$4,974,112
University of Alaska Museum	2009 and earlier	Community Grants	US Program	\$1,000,000

Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals
 Alaska Association of School Administrators
 Alaska Association of School Business Officials

It appears every member of the Alaska School Board is a member of one of these groups. Thus we can say that the professional organization to which the members of the Alaska School Board belong would be beholden to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

With Gates money going directly to AK-DEED and to Alaska's School Administrators, is there any wonder that standards that are "practically the same" as Common Core State Standards were adopted?

Achieve, Inc.

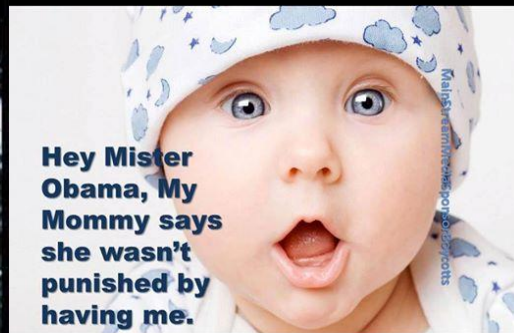
As I have stated in previously, the validation letter by Patrick Gambles told U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan that Achieve Inc. oversaw the standards writing process in Alaska. In that letter Gamble names groups involved in the process. He writes,

"...Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Staff coordinated with Achieve, Inc in the initial planning stages, of the standards revision process in 2010. Staff from Achieve reviewed Alaska's revision plan and provided feedback via phone conversations and teleconferences. Achieve provided critical guidance for consideration of appropriate stakeholders, identifying key decision makers, and process-specific tasks, which Alaska incorporated into the review."

Why is Achieve's role never discussed in the legislative hearings?

Achieve's top donor is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. An audit by Mercedes Schneider shows that prior to June 2009, Achieve received \$23.5 million in Gates funding. Another \$13.2 million followed after Common Core State

WHAT WAS FREEDOM LIKE?



Standards (CCSS) creation, with \$9.3 million devoted to “building strategic alliances” for CCSS promotion, and in 2012 an excess of \$9 million was given to Achieve for the purpose of implementation of the common core and strengthening stake holder networks. That means there is money to go out and promote common core and the education funding for it.

National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessments

The next organization involved in the writing of Alaska’s standards listed in the validation letter is the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessments (NCIEA) in Dover, NH. They facilitated the standards writing process in Alaska by providing the script and the personnel for conducting the teacher meetings. Gamble states,

*“Alaska also utilized two national experts who were involved in developing the Common Core Standards.: Dr. Brian Gong and Dr. Karin Hess from the **National Center for the Improvement of Education Assessment (NCIEA)**. Dr. Gong and Dr. Hess facilitated five meetings and several activities that included K-12 teachers, district curriculum specialists, administrators, college professors, and deans, and members of the business community. **Their knowledge of the Common Core Standards** allowed them to provide guidance and that specifically addressed concerns related to the quality of our new Alaska standards. “*

Two psychologists (Brian Gong and Karen Hess) designed the curriculum crosswalks (comparing one set of standards to another) to persuade educators to accept the common core standards or something sufficiently close. This organization regularly receives large donations from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. **NCIEA received \$600,000 alone last year in one grant**, and there are numerous grants to them listed on the Gates Foundation website.

Council of Chief State School Officers

The next organization listed in the validation letter that was involved in the process is Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). At the present time, Chris Minnich is the Executive Director, and he is the person who came to Alaska to defend the standards. The CCSSO receives huge sums from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

According to the audit by Mercedes Schneider, the Gates Foundation gave the CCSSO over \$21 million in March 2007. Following CCSS completion in June 2009, Gates funded CCSSO an additional \$31.9 million, with the largest grants earmarked for Common Core State Standards implementation and assessment, and data acquisition and control. In June 2011, they gave CCSSO over \$9 million to support the Common Core State Standards work. In October 2012, they gave CCSSO \$1.1 million to support strategic planning for the sustainability of the Common Core State Standards and the two multi-state assessment consortia tasked with designing assessments aligned with those standards. In July 2013, they gave the CCSSO \$4 million on the behalf of SBAC and the other consortia, PARCC to develop Common Core assessments. There are numerous other awards given by Gates to CCSSO related to marketing data systems.

University of Alaska and Other Groups

The Gates Foundation is a “Bunnell Member” of the University of Alaska Foundation, which means they regularly contribute over \$1 million dollars.

But that isn’t all. The validation study, according to Patrick Gamble, will be undertaken by the Bill and Melinda Gates



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Foundation through a grant to the Center for Alaska Education Policy Research housed at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Gamble writes that he is hopeful the study shows that the standards will better prepare Alaska's students. The Gates Foundation will validate the Gates Foundation?

Ms. Porter-Magee testified at the Alaska State Senate hearings is from the Thomas Fordham Institute. They received \$1.9 million in donations from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to defend the common core standards in its various forms according to Schneider's audit.

Even the National Education Association (NEA) is not immune to Gates money. In July 2013, NEA officially endorsed common core standards, and in July 2013, Gates contributed to NEA for through two grants totaling \$6.3 million.

The Gates Foundation donated \$1.1 million to the PTA to mobilize parents to support the Common Core at the national level. It would be interesting to know how much of this money made its way into Alaska.

As a final note, the validation letter doesn't really validate the standards. Gamble left the University an out if you read the letter carefully. That is why Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortia changed their rules of entry to accommodate Alaska.

These standards are not college and career ready in the way most parents regard that idea. Even Jason Zimba, the physicist who was the principal author of the math standards admitted it to the Massachusetts Dept. of Education. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFm6Oj2YMes>

As a final note, I take exception to Gamble's statements about the involvement of business leaders and non-educators. The documents in the ESEA Flexibility Waiver appendix list only 1 non-educator as part of the process, Patrick Gamble. For the record, it should be noted that no parents were involved as "stakeholders" unless they were on the Achieve list of approval and employed in the education system.

The No Child Left Behind waiver states a computerized test through a consortium (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortia), will be used to assess Alaskan students, teachers, and schools. This consortia is requiring significant technology investments. Ultimately, it will be Alaskans who pay for this. We should question the role of a private company that sells software and operating systems in promoting standards that mandates membership in a consortia that requires significant investments on technology related to that firm's product mix.

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www.facebook.com/stopcommoncoreak



"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience."

C. S. Lewis



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State Passes Law to Legalize Shooting Police

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

<http://thefreethoughtproject.com/state-passes-law-legalize-self-defense-police/#coX3xvUyiyprB1X7.01>

Finally some rational legislation is passed concerning ‘public servants’ unlawfully entering another person’s property. All too often, we see examples of cops breaking into the wrong house and shooting the family dog, (<http://thefreethoughtproject.com/cops-break-private-property-shoot-owners-dog-serving-warrant-wrong-house/>) or worse, killing a member of the family (<http://thefreethoughtproject.com/cop-wrong-address-killed-innocent-man-charged/>).

Well, Indiana has taken action to “**recognize the unique character of a citizen’s home and to ensure that a citizen feels secure in his or her own home against unlawful intrusion by another individual or a public servant.**”

This special amendment is no revolutionary new thought, only common sense.

Self-defense is a natural right; when laws are in place that protect incompetent police by removing one’s ability to protect one’s self, simply because the aggressor has a badge and a uniform, this is a human rights violation. Indiana is leading the way by recognizing this right and creating legislation to protect it.

Of course cops have already begun to fear monger the passage of this bill, “If I pull over a car and I walk up to it and the guy shoots me, he’s going to say, ‘Well, he was trying to illegally enter my property,’ ” said Joseph Hubbard, 40, president of Jeffersonville Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 100. “Somebody is going get away with killing a cop because of this law.”

Instead of looking at the beneficial aspect of this law, which creates the incentive for police to act responsibly and just, Hubbard takes the ‘higher than thou’ attitude and is simply worried about himself.

How about questioning the immoral laws that you are enforcing in the first place? Or how about sympathizing with the innocent people whose pets and family members have been slain, due to police negligence?

Who’s to say that a cop pulling you over to extort money from you for the victimless crime of not wearing a seatbelt, isn’t an unlawful act? Or how about breaking down your door in the middle of the night to kidnap you and throw you in a cage for possessing a plant?

Hopefully this legislation will lead to these arbitrary traffic and drug enforcement “laws” in place solely for revenue collection (aka theft), being brought into question.

The law states: <http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2012/SE/SE0001.1.html>

(i) A person is justified in using reasonable force against a public servant if the person reasonably believes the force is necessary to:

- (1) protect the person or a third person from what the person reasonably believes to be the imminent use of unlawful force;**
- (2) prevent or terminate the public servant’s unlawful entry of or attack on the person’s dwelling, curtilage, or occupied motor vehicle; or**

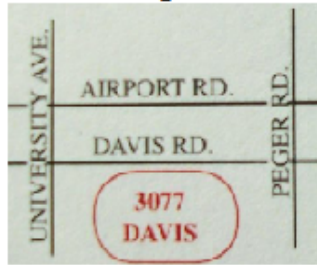
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(3) prevent or terminate the public servant's unlawful trespass on or criminal interference with property lawfully in the person's possession, lawfully in possession of a member of the person's immediate family, or belonging to a person whose property the person has authority to protect.

It is through legislation such as this, which will empower people again and aid in bringing down these tyrants from their pedestals, who are given free rein to murder and pillage without consequence.



YOU ARE A CRIMINAL UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT---A BEDTIME STORY

by Rosa Koire 02/06/2014 <http://www.democratsagainstunagenda21.com/the-way-we-see-itour-blog.html>

Just a few days ago the Miami Herald, Florida, newspaper ran a story headlined: *Lawmakers To Consider Banning Biometrics in Schools*. The Pinellas County school district started using biometrics (iris scans, fingerprint scans, and palm readers...not the ones wearing turbans and earrings...) in the school cafeterias. When the Polk and Seminole County school districts instituted their own programs Florida legislators started getting the message that there was opposition to data collection on minors. Now some Florida legislators are proposing a bill to block biometric data collection in the schools.

Really? Now we need a bill to protect our first amendment rights? We need a legislator writing a bill in order to stop a school district from violating the rights of children? For the people who think that this is a tempest in a lunch bag, let me remind you that these elementary, junior, and senior high school students are a few years away from adulthood. They are being fingerprinted. Their irises are being scanned. Their palm prints are being recorded. These people have not committed a crime. Right now, in America, you only have to give your fingerprints to the 'authorities' if you commit a crime (or are accused of committing a crime). You may voluntarily give this information if you want a 'sensitive job' or a passport, but **THIS ACTION IS VOLUNTARY**. In Pinellas, Seminole, and Polk counties, childrens' identities are being data mined prior to the age of consent. Not only do the school officials not have the right to take their information, but **I posit that their parents don't have the right to give this information to the government either. This decision is one that should be made by each individual.**

Here in America, a school district bureaucrat can justify violating civil rights to privacy because *"The biggest benefit of having this system is that it allows students more time to eat their lunch," Marquez Parra said. "That's what this is all about."*

But this is not 'what this is all about'. This is all about **INVENTORY, MONITORING, AND CONTROL. This is UN Agenda 21.**

RESIST.

Read more here: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/02/02/3909538/lawmakers-to-consider-banning.html>



The Sneaky Tactic Some States Are Using Now That Parents Are Standing Up Against Common Core

Jason Howerton Feb. 18, 2014 10:29pm <http://www.theblaze.com/>

As fed-up parents across the nation voice their staunch opposition to federal Common Core standards, several states are trying a new approach to appease them... by just changing the name in a "rebranding" effort.

In Iowa, Common Core is now [referred to as "The Iowa Core"](#) and as "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" in Florida. Further, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed an executive order recently to scrub the "Common Core" name from their math and reading standards. Louisiana is also reportedly considering a name change.

Glyn Wright, executive director of the Eagle Forum, [told FoxNews.com](#) that the name isn't the problem.

"Even under a different name, the Common Core Standards are still mediocre, at best, and continue to put American students at a significant disadvantage to their international peers," Wright said.

There are only four states in the U.S. that haven't adopted at least some Common Core standards.

Critics argue that Common Core, which was never voted on by Congress, promotes a one-size-fits-all approach to education and takes away control from teachers and local school systems. There have also been problems with Common Core "aligned" lessons and textbooks including liberal and progressive political messages.

Some Republicans, including Jeb Bush and Mike Huckabee, have been longtime supporters of Common Core. Both agree that the name change is necessary because the term Common Core has become "toxic."

"Rebrand it, refocus it, but don't retreat," Huckabee said at a recent meeting of the Council of Chief State School Officers

Wright had this to say of the tactic: "Rebranding the Common Core does not change the fact that it is still a top-down, federally controlled approach to education that is untested and unproven. We know that Americans will not be fooled by dressing-up this failed initiative."



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