

**Neal, Nicki L (DOA)**

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**From:** Tammie and Randy [tamerack@alaska.net]

**Sent:** Friday, December 19, 2008 5:45 PM

**To:** DOA COM SOCC

**Subject:** Pay raises

Dear Commissioners,

This would be the most inappropriate time to be giving our elected officials a pay raise. We should be cutting budgets, saving money and preparing for hard times ahead.

I say no spending my tax dollars on pay raises for elected officials.

Sincerely,

Tammie Stoops  
PO Box 240402  
Anchorage, AK 99524

12/21/2008

Kodiak Island, Alaska  
December 20, 2008

State Officers Compensations Commission  
P.O. Box 110201  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Attn: Nicki Neal, Secretary  
State Officers Compensation Commission  
Fax 907-465-3415

We have been Alaskan residents for 44 years, Kodiak Island is our home. We have always paid higher prices for everything, retailers always blame freight costs. Gasoline prices in Kodiak are finally down to \$2.85 per gallon, the lowest in 18 months. With the price of groceries and utilities increasing almost daily, the rising costs of medical services and health insurance, for those that do have coverage, the thousands of Alaskans who have lost some or all of their retirement funds, locked into 401k's and other plans, due to the recession and the many retired and senior citizens who are struggling on a fixed income, a pay raise would be a blessing.

But based on the economy of our country and the gloom and doom reports we hear daily it seems unbelievable that the State Officers Compensation Commission would recommend a pay increase for the governor, lieutenant governor, heads of principal executive departments and legislators at this time.

The comments from a commission member "mortgages have to be met, children have to go to college" sounds self-serving since this person obviously has a job and salary. What about the working families in our state who are losing their homes, jobs and retirement funds who have no options. The comment that a pay increase would motivate people to get involved in government careers is out of place with the present economic circumstances. If a person chooses to run for an office that is their personal choice and if it requires working second jobs then that is their problem. Both of us have worked one, two and even three side jobs during lean times. You just do what you have to do to keep going.

Since we all have to "tighten our belts" I feel the government should do the same. The governor announced a 7% decrease in the general fund spending budget and still the state will have to take money out of savings to balance the budget. Now the lawmakers are worried since oil is below \$30 per barrel and we imagine they will start wanting into the PFD accounts before too long.

The governor says she would not accept a raise which is admirable, but if these raises are approved the money will be allocated, whether she accepts it or not, another person will get that raise somewhere down the line. Her raise would be a 17% increase, the other others on the list range from a 5% to a 52% increase, these are substantial increases for these positions. Our social security checks will see a 5.8% raise in January and our health insurance will increase 13% and being on fixed retirement income this will cause us to cut back somewhere.

All Alaskan residents and Americans are having to make cuts and sacrifices at this time and probably for several years. We feel that state officers and lawmakers need to do the same. The timing of these proposed pay increases couldn't be worse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Handwritten signatures of Joseph R. O'Donnoghue and Judy O'Donnoghue.

Joseph and Judy O'Donnoghue  
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Rick R. Koch, Thomas J. McGrath, Mike Miller