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Representative Vic Kohring
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Kohring Calls for Massive Spending Cuts **Releases Revised Budget Plan Calling for “Revolution”**

(JUNEAU) - Rep. Vic Kohring (R-Wasilla/Peters Creek) has presented a revised budget plan that would eliminate the budget deficit without taxes or spending the Permanent Fund, in stark contrast to [Fiscal Policy Caucus](#)'s [plan](#), which includes taxes and spending a portion of the Permanent Fund.

“Many Alaskans are tired of the old tax-and-spend approach,” Kohring said. “They want an approach that cuts the budget substantially and rejects taxes and spending the Permanent Fund. We have a clear choice: cut government or cut Alaskans paychecks by stealing their hard earned money through taxes. I say, cut government, and cut it big.”

Kohring's revised plan's basic elements include:

- Cutting spending by \$500 million the first year and \$100 million in each of the next five years (general, federal and other funds), for a total of \$1 billion;
- Selling land holdings, the Alaska Railroad and other state-owned facilities, and combining the proceeds with the Alaska Science & Technology Foundation Endowment and the Constitutional Budget Reserve, and placing the total into the existing “Rainy Day Account;”
- Increasing oil and gas royalties through an aggressive plan to stimulate exploration and development with tax breaks, streamlining the permitting process and offering more lands for leasing;
- Drawing upon the Rainy Day Account funds to eliminate the budget deficit over the 10-year period, as new oil and gas revenues gradually come on line.

Kohring expands on the reasons underlying his proposal in detail in the attached editorial, entitled “Revolution.”

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Broadcasters note: Comments are available on the Majority Actuality Line 1-800-478-6540, or on the Majority webpage at www.akrepublicans.org

“But when a long train of abuses and usurpations ... it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government ...” - Declaration of Independence

Revolution

By Rep. Vic Kohring

March 7, 2002

It's always with the best of intentions that government agencies are created and go about their business of controlling us. But we find:

- A Wasilla property owner's land declared “valuable wetlands,” preventing him from developing it and costing him over \$100,000.00. No compensation was offered;
- A man stripped of his drivers' license, keeping him from driving to work because CSED used another state's court order requiring payment for a “child” of 22 who had been in the armed forces for four years;
- Home schooling parents threatened to have their homes entered for curriculum inspection to ensure it's “appropriate,” including a threat to ban religious study materials;
- A Wasilla business forced to relinquish its license, simply because the owner missed an arbitrary paperwork deadline. Under state “rules,” it would be forced to close shop for two years;
- The Parks Highway re-designed with the effect of killing off customer access, despite a convenience store owner's pleas;
- A whistle-blowing employee of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities fired, only to have an investigation reveal he did no wrong. He was never rehired or compensated.

These are cases I personally know about. There are thousands of others. Thomas Jefferson wrote: *“He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.”* He was referring to King George III's men in the 18th century. Does it not describe exactly what's happening to us today?

A revolution is needed in Alaska. Not with guns but with resolve to slash government's colossal \$7.3 billion budget. With an army of 22,000 government workers “helping us,” they consume \$1 billion a year in salaries and benefits. The degree to which they do this would make Josef Stalin proud. The result is a monstrosity that controls nearly every facet of our lives. Let's free Alaskans from government's shackles, from its burdensome regulations, grossly excessive spending and the pending doom of crushing taxes politicians now demand.

I propose a more creative approach. It's going to require tremendous effort, but it's the only way we're going to take back our state from Big Brother Juneau. The following 10-point plan should be put in place immediately:

- 1) Cut spending by \$500 million this year and another \$100 million for each of the next five years, for a total of \$1 billion dollars. Have legislative sessions every other year, and restrict them to 60 days.
- 2) Place a moratorium on new taxes, prohibit spending the Permanent Fund, cap spending and contract out numerous services, like road maintenance. Remove half of the 4,000-plus laws enacted since statehood and eliminate 80 percent of the tens of thousands of regulations government agencies created.

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- 3) Release the State's massive land holdings to the people with no strings and create tax incentives to spur private-sector, small-business growth.
- 4) Break up the government-controlled monopoly on schools, giving parents tax credits for sending their children to the school of their choice. Consolidate school districts of 100 students or less.
- 5) Cut non-essential government workers by 25 percent, put in place a hiring freeze, and cap salaries at \$70,000.
- 6) Merge half of all agencies, including Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation, Law, Economic Development and Fish & Game. Eliminate the Department of Administration.
- 7) Cut welfare and public assistance by 50 percent and eliminate "welfare" to cities in the form of revenue sharing.
- 8) Close money-losing rural campuses of the University of Alaska that are not on the road system (excluding the University of Alaska-Southeast in Juneau) and cut 20 percent of highly paid administrative positions.
- 9) Close half of government office complexes throughout the state, including the Capitol building and the State Office Building in Juneau. Move the capitol into the state-owned Atwood Building in Anchorage, including all department headquarters. Close half of the state's prison facilities by contracting out 50 percent of the inmate population to less costly, out-of-state private prisons.
- 10) Eliminate tax dollars to tourism, fisheries, agriculture, public TV, radio and the arts and close the Governor's mansion.

When we've done this, when liberal newspapers and government parasites are told firmly that we intend to fight for our liberty, then and only then can we rejoice and take pride in Alaska!

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Rep. Vic Kohring is a fourth-term Republican representing Wasilla and Peters Creek. He is chair of the House Transportation Committee.