

From: [Chelsea Tremblay](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Protect our Media and Ferries
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 9:08:11 AM

Maintaining funding levels for both our public media and our ferry systems is about keeping Alaskans connected to one another.

- * The ferry system is an important service because often it is the only way people with some health issues can move from one place to another, or to move products they need for their daily lives and business at a reasonable cost.
- * Disrupting thousands of already existing reservations would be a huge blow to Alaska's economy, as visitors hoping to spend time in Southeast communities may have to call off trips and residents decide to stay home rather than pay the hundreds more to book a flight (if that option is even available to them at all.)
- * Our public radio is the place we turn to for emergencies like tsunami warnings. It is also a place where every person and vessel can hear the latest marine weather forecast. This is literally a life-saving service.
- * Public radio is also the place we turn to for an active democracy as it broadcasts our local assembly and school board meetings. The open airwaves policy means the everyday citizen has a voice that can only be heard on the airwaves. Public media, in a time when democracy seems at risk from the overwhelming influence of corporate sponsorship, is a cornerstone of a civilized, common society.

Everyone knows we cannot cut our way out of this budget problem. So while some cuts will be necessary, crippling what it takes to make our state a healthy, vibrant place to live is not the way to start the difficult conversation.

After all, how can we even have a conversation if we can't visit or hear from one another?

Thank you for your time, and for taking the time to listen to the people of Alaska.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Tremblay
Petersburg, Alaska