

**From:** [Lauren Bell](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Re: proposed public broadcasting funding cuts  
**Date:** Friday, March 04, 2016 3:55:56 PM

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To the Senate Finance Committee:

I'm writing to express my concern over the recently proposed 100% budget cut to public broadcasting in our state. I have lived in Alaska since birth, and during my lifetime I have relied almost exclusively on Alaska's exceptional public broadcasting stations for my local, state, and national news. The various small communities I have lived in across Alaska have more often than not been out-of-range for both internet access and reliable cell phone coverage, so that tuning in to public radio broadcasting has been my only means of staying informed of health, safety, and emergency alerts. Where internet access is possible in our state, it does not provide the same consistent and timely, community-level information that our local public broadcasting stations are able to afford, such as local marine forecasts, school lunch menus, community calendars and announcements, and updates during disaster responses. Commercial broadcasters and media will not invest in such local services if public broadcasting is removed.

I understand the current financial crisis within our state, and the tough decisions that the Alaska legislature currently faces. I don't believe that sweeping elimination of the public broadcasting budget is the answer to our state's fiscal imbalance. I am very concerned that choosing to cut state funding to public broadcasting will significantly undermine the strength and resilience of our communities as well as weaken the vital connections of Alaskans to one another across the immense expanse of our state.

I urge the Senate Finance Committee to not support this proposed reduction.

Thank you for your time,

Lauren Bell

Member, Board of Directors – Raven Radio, KCAW

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