

**From:** [Linda Kruger](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Dennis Egan](#); [Bill Legere](#)  
**Subject:** Budget considerations  
**Date:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 8:59:13 AM

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Greetings,

First, thanks to you all for serving our great state. Times are tough and I appreciate your willingness to focus on important issues and make thoughtful, tough decisions that will keep our state moving forward.

I'm concerned about proposed cuts to (1) K-12 education and (2) our university system--both are critical for the future of our state; (3) our ferry system, the backbone of our transportation system in Southeast Alaska - important for commerce, tourism, medical appointments, visiting friends and family, school athletics and other school related travel; and (4) public broadcasting - important in bigger communities and the only way many of our smaller communities in the state get state and local news.

We are fortunate in Juneau to have many great radio stations but we have seen our local newspaper wither to a shadow of its past. Here in Juneau, as in many smaller communities, many residents are dependent on local public radio stations for a diverse mix of local, state and national news, coverage of current events and items of interest. In some smaller communities across the state public broadcasting may be the only connection they have to local news and community happenings, including issues pertaining to safety and well-being. It is important to maintain support for this critical service.

While I love my PFD and dislike taxes as much as anyone I realize solutions to our budget issue must include consideration of lower PFDs, some sort of tax (I prefer an income tax), and reformulation of how we tax natural resource extraction. We must all join in exploring creative ways to bring new economy to our state.

Sincerely,

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