

**From:** [Gretchen Clarke](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Funding for Public Broadcasting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:54:18 AM

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Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of public broadcasting and the vital role it plays throughout Alaska. While I appreciate the difficult financial circumstances facing the state and the difficult decisions that must be made, public broadcasting, like police and fire, plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities. A 100% cut would cause serious and permanent financial harm to the public radio stations around the state, including my own local station, KCAW. Stations would be forced to enact layoffs which would result in loss of essential daily local, regional, and state news and information including essential local/community health, public safety and emergency information--information not otherwise readily available throughout the state, particularly in rural Alaska.

Stations are already maximizing local and listener support through membership revenue. Local support is strong, but it cannot carry another round of state cuts. Further cutting funding for public broadcasting will have a domino effect locally, regionally, and statewide as stations are forced to layoff staff. This, in turn, will jeopardize federal operating grants which require a minimum number of employees. Thus federal matching dollars coming into Alaska will be reduced.

It is a tough fiscal climate in the state, but eliminating public services like public broadcasting will further jeopardize the welfare of our great state. I urge you to please keep public broadcasting alive.

Regards,

Gretchen Clarke  
Sitka, Alaska

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