

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: Please protect radio funding
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:05:23 PM

Kristen Pratt

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From: Kendall Nordin [mailto:kendall_somewhere@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:22 AM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect radio funding

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

I apologize for not being able to call in during one of the open phone sessions, but I will be at work during that time. Thank you for listening and considering this important citizen input.

In a previous career, I worked in DC on helping to pass the FCC regulations that reinstated Low Power FM Radio licenses. We fought in a broad coalition with groups as diverse as conservative Christian communities and Jazz fanatics in large cities. We all knew that radio, and truly local radio is a fundamental tool for communities to function well. Here in Skagway we rely on KHNS for weather, road conditions, water conditions, tsunami warnings, local news, community announcements, native programming, and entertainment. With prohibitively expensive cable tv and internet rates, it's also our only free source to world wide, national, state, and first nation news. If it disappears, so does our tether to each other and our lifeline to the larger communities we belong to -- the State of Alaska & the country as a whole.

By gutting the funding for public radio, we will lose all of our federal matching grant and therefore our ability to use the public airwaves in the Upper Lynn Canal to our maximum advantage. As our communities are so spread out, this will diminish our ability to connect with our fellow citizens, leave us without good information and reporting on local affairs, and will hinder our ability to participate in the important decisions of this area democratically. I also firmly believe that those actions ultimately lead to a halting of any comprehensive progress towards local economic growth, which our state desperately needs. I support Governor Walker's proposal of maintaining the cut at 27% of the original line item.

I am not unaware of the current economic crisis we face in Alaska. But when priorities have to be defined, protection of free access to local information on the public airwaves should be without question near the top of the list.

Thank you again for spending your valuable time listening to and weighing our concerns.
Kendall Emery,

Skagway, Alaska.