

From: [James P. Schwartz](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#); [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Cuts to Public Broadcasting
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:01:44 AM

Dear Co-chairs of the Finance Committee and Committee members;

I would like to express my strong objection to the language of a 100% reduction or, more accurately, the elimination of the public broadcasting funding for all of Alaska from the State budget. I am a life long resident of Petersburg, a retired teacher, and a commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay for 34 years. The role public broadcasting plays in both areas that I have lived and worked in has been critical in getting crucial information to people for safety, business decisions, government functions, health, as well as entertainment. The legislature has already substantially cut the public broadcasting budget in previous years causing reductions in their services. Our local communities have stepped up with additional support but these proposed additional cuts threaten their viability. Federal funding that requires state participation is in jeopardy. Look at the level of local support these public broadcasting stations show with their fundraising. My own level of donations to public broadcasting has increased substantially. As an Alaskan, surely you can see the essential role public broadcasting has played for the communities they serve. Public broadcasting is important for the state of Alaska to do its obligations as a governmental body. Do your part to fund public broadcasting at a sustainable level with the rest of us. Without it, the safety, health, supportive economic factors, and an educated public will be diminished significantly. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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