



## UNALASKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Police-Fire-EMS-Communications-Corrections

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March 3, 2016

Senator Lyman Hoffman

State of Alaska

[Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov)

Dear Sir:

The community of Unalaska is proactive about emergency preparedness, and we have to be. We are located in a volcanic region, with a very real potential for earthquakes, tsunamis and other multi-hazard events. The Aleutian Islands are also well known for frequent storms, which reach hurricane force several times each year.

KUCB is the only media service in Unalaska, and its signal reaches our entire population. In the event of an emergency, KUCB plays a vital role in the dissemination of information from first responders and officials involved in the management of emergency response.

Our emergency plan includes reaching the community over KUCB Radio. We practice our plan each year during a community-wide disaster drill, and the local radio station is an active participant in this drill. When the situation is not a drill, our citizens rely on KUCB to relay essential, time-sensitive, information. We've worked with KUCB over the years during various multi-hazard events to include multiple tsunami advisories and warnings. Already this year, we've turned to KUCB to announce extreme weather warnings and travel advisories.

We are aware that the State of Alaska is facing a fiscal crisis resulting in difficult budget decisions. KUCB and the public radio stations across the state have weathered a deep cut to their state operating grants in FY16. Another large cut could dismantle the emergency response network that is vital to keeping Alaskans safe during emergencies.

Sincerely,

Zac Schasteen

Chairman, Aleutian – Pribilof Local Emergency Planning Committee