

From: [Sue Bergstrom](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Public Broadcasting Budget
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 2:33:05 PM
Attachments: [CSG funding levels.pdf](#)

Dear Committee Members;

I am writing about the Public Broadcasting portion of next year's proposed budget. It seems that some members of the committee are misinformed and are under the impression that a cut in State of Alaska Operating funds can be made up with Corporation for Public Broadcasting funds. It's important that committee members understand that zeroing out State Operating Funds for public radio stations is literally a death sentence for certain small stations. They can not make up for the loss with their federal operating grants. Corporation for Public Broadcasting funding requires local matching; NFFS or Non-federally funded share. I have attached the explanation from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting web site. CSG refers to Community Service Grant.

Public Radio is not a 'non-essential' service to many of Alaska's most vulnerable residents. Committee members should be aware that there are still places in this state where people not only do not have cell phones or internet access, they don't have electricity or mail delivery. Even if public radio is not the sole service in these areas, which it often is, commercial radio stations, especially the smaller ones, often broadcast all pre-packaged programming purchased from outside and do little or no local production; including news, weather and emergency broadcasts.

Hopefully understanding that the small, rural stations are likely to go away without State of Alaska Operating Funds because, unlike big city stations, they don't have the membership base or local business options to make up the money to keep their federal grants, and that these stations are not just one in many information options to many of their listeners, will help you see your way clear to re-thinking the proposed budget cut.

Sincerely,

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