

From the desk of:
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To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in regards to the recent proposal to decrease public radio funding by 59%. We feel this will do a grave disservice to our Alaskan bush communities. In larger communities, there are many forms of communication available, i.e., multiple radio stations, daily newspapers, etc. In the bush, many communities have just one source for information both local and national via their radio station. Our local radio station, K1YU, brings us important, and sometimes lifesaving, news. For example, this year has been extremely warm, and K1YU, in conjunction with our search and rescue department, has been able to keep us apprised of open leads on the river causing dangerous trail conditions, which has undoubtedly saved many lives. The station also brings us local weather which is used for those traveling along the trails between communities. People with needs are able to put adds on the local wireless to obtain things, and in other cases, sell things, that might be unattainable otherwise, to those in need. The entertainment value is also beneficial to all ages and demographics. There are classes in the local school who write, practice, and produce public service announcements as well. This is an invaluable lesson for kids to learn, to produce materials that are helpful to those around them. With that being said, we doubt you'll find larger communities supporting their radio stations with as much dedication as you'll find out in the bush when fundraisers for the stations are held. But, there is only so much money that a small community can raise, thus the need for public funding for our truly rural/bush communities.

Our radio station is a part of the glue that holds our community together. Please reconsider your plan to cut funding for our local radio stations.

Sincerely,

Kim and LaRee Ueeck