

**From:** [Ted Laufenberg](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Public funding for Public Radio  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 2:40:15 PM

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Dear Senators,

These are difficult budget cutting times and I appreciate your efforts to bring spending in line. However, please re-consider the 100% cut to public radio. From my own perspective, the small savings to the state budget would decimate Sitka's community radio station. Not only do we count on this for Local News but also for support of the democratic process. You will continue to spend money to advertise in newspapers regarding public hearings/meetings. Is that a good use of funds when the Public is listening to other media, reading the web/internet connections made possible by Public Radio? The budget cuts will require multiple staff cuts, like all other public stations in the state. All together this means no statewide news for those without internet access. KCAW would lose capacity to provide health and safety information, broadcast of municipal and tribal government meetings and election coverage.

The 100% cut would result in a loss of almost \$140,000 locally, which would will cause serious and permanent financial harm to KCAW, which already earns almost \$150,000 in local memberships. In addition, these cuts would eliminate all service, including Emergency Alert System alerts Yakutat, Tenakee Springs, Angoon, Tenakee Springs, Pelican, Port Alexander and Elfin Cove, all along active earthquake zones and at risk of Tsunamis.

Please find other avenues to balance the state budget as cutting Public Radio is akin to sealing your community's mouth and ears. This a first amendment right in SE Alaska.

Regards,

Ted Laufenberg, PE

Engineer/Project Management/Inspection

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