

**From:** [Marian Clough](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Restore funding for public broadcasting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 8:37:09 AM

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MY NAME IS MARIAN CLOUGH. I HAVE BEEN AN AVID LISTENER & WATCHER OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING SINCE I FIRST CAME TO JUNEAU THIRTY-ONE YEARS AGO. I AM ALSO A VOLUNTEER MEMBER OF THE KTOO COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD.

LIKE MANY ALASKANS, I HAVE FOLLOWED THE NEWS ABOUT THE DROP IN OIL PRICES & THE REVENUE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR STATE WITH GREAT INTEREST. MY PRIMARY INFORMATION SOURCE HAS BEEN PUBLIC BROADCASTING, WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY OFFERED ALASKANS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF THIS ISSUE. WE HAVE PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE DEBATES ON HOW LARGE A CUT PUBLIC BROADCASTING MIGHT RECEIVE. BUT MY FAMILY & FRIENDS WERE SHOCKED BY THE DISPROPORTIONATE 100% REDUCTION IN FUNDING PROPOSED FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING.

ALASKA IS THE MOST DIVERSE STATE IN OUR NATION. FOR DECADES WE HAVE STRUGGLED TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF STATEWIDE COMMUNITY. PUBLIC BROADCASTING PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN CONNECTING ALL ALASKANS, OFFERING NEWS STORIES & PROGRAMS FROM EVERY COMMUNITY OF THE STATE. FOR OUR FAMILY & MANY OTHER ALASKANS IT IS THE PRIMARY METHOD OF STAYING IN TOUCH WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING THROUGHOUT OUR BEAUTIFUL YET GEOGRAPHICALLY CHALLENGING STATE.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING PLAYS AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT ROLE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. I AM PROUD TO HAVE SERVED AS MUNICIPAL CLERK HERE IN JUNEAU, WHERE I SAW FOR MYSELF HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT KTOO BROADCASTS ASSEMBLY MEETINGS LIVE ON THE RADIO, AS DO MANY OTHER PUBLIC RADIO STATIONS IN ALASKA. AND, OF COURSE THE ROLE THAT GAVEL-TO-GAVEL FULFILLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

ON NOVEMBER 4, 2013, A VERY EXCITING THING HAPPENED – THE BIRTH OF

OUR FIRST GRANDCHILD. IT WAS WITH GREAT JOY WE WELCOMED OUR BEAUTIFUL GRANDSON INTO THIS WORLD. AS PART OF THAT CELEBRATION, MY HUSBAND & I SIGNED LITTLE JACKSON UP AS THE NEWEST SUSTAINING MEMBER OF KTOO. NOW THAT MAY SOUND SILLY, BUT RIGHT FROM THE START WE WANTED OUR GRANDSON TO BE AN INFORMED & ACTIVE CITIZEN IN HIS STATE WE LOVE SO MUCH. SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING IS A GREAT WAY OF KEEPING & ENHANCING THE TIES THAT BIND OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER STATEWIDE. I URGE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO RESTORE THE FUNDING TO A REASONABLE LEVEL.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING MY COMMENTS.

MARIAN CLOUGH