

From: [Hannah Heimbuch](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Dave Anderson](#)
Subject: Public Radio Comment
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 10:37:54 AM

Hello, this is Hannah Heimbuch, and I am a resident of Homer, Alaska. I am also on the community advisory board of our local station - KBBI. Our community highly values this station, and I'm honored to have been a part of it as a volunteer, member and lifelong listener. I understand that Alaska is facing a very challenging financial year, and I appreciate the difficulty of the budgeting process. We understand that cuts are a necessary part of this. However, a 100% cut to public radio is beyond that which is sustainable for Alaska's stations — vital pieces of Alaskan communities. Not only are they a central addition to quality of life for Alaska residents, they provide essential emergency response services, public safety announcements, and local news. As a fisherman I particularly appreciate the marine weather, keeping boaters informed of conditions — essential information for safe decisions on the water. The radio is such a basic and original source of this information — we cannot afford to assume people will find basic safety and emergency information somewhere else. **The radio station is the baseline source for essential safety information. In times of emergency, public radio lives in the public consciousness as a source for those vital messages. They are absolutely not expendable.**

Even in a time of online communication, radio broadcast remains a basic need for emergency response and communication. During the tsunami alarm test last week (not at the usual time, and during which they did NOT say "test") we were told to visit our local radio station for more information. I did, immediately. As I'm sure many others in my community did. The possibility of tsunamis, floods (Anchor River flooding the highway and washing out the AP bridge, Woodard Creek flood in Homer), severe storms, earthquakes (many Alaskan communities are on fault lines), volcanic eruptions (Cook Inlet is home to several active volcanoes), fires (like last year's very serious Funny River Fire) and other natural and man-made disasters (like the explosion of the Icicle Seafoods Plant) are realities of life in Alaska. Our communities absolutely rely on public radio broadcast to keep us informed of safety issues associated with these things.

To provide these most basic services our stations need a baseline of state support — support we are sincerely asking you to maintain. A cut of this size right now would do permanent harm to the station, causing loss of essential staff, access to programming and ability to provide basic services. The loss of revenue from a scale down of this magnitude would be unrecoverable. Despite the difficulties facing the financial crunch at this point, I believe maintaining some funding is vital.

Please consider a less substantial cut to this essential service.

Thank you,

Hannah Heimbuch

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