

From: [Robi Harris](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Please Restore Public Radio Funding.
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 12:37:29 PM

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

I was scheduled to testify in person via telephone yesterday March 30th. However, due to the unfortunate organization of testimony by the Committee Chair and the time of the day I had to leave before I could testify.

My name is Robi Harris and I am Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for Unalaska Community Broadcasting in Unalaska Alaska. I am writing to respectfully request that you please restore funding for public broadcasting at the very least to the level the House passed and sent to the Senate. I do not envy the position you are in and understand you have to make. My testimony is directed mainly to Senator Mike Dunleavy from the Matsu who may not understand the importance of public broadcasting to Alaska

In Unalaska and other rural communities in Alaska public broadcasting is different than anywhere else in the Lower 48. It serves as a source of communication, entertainment and a lifeline in emergencies for the communities public broadcasting serves. Unalaska is an island in the Aleutian Chain and KUCB is the only radio station we receive. Parents who may not be able to afford to go to an away game if they have kids in high school can hear their kids on KUCB.

Here in Unalaska, we'd stand to lose upwards of \$130,000. Elimination of state funding will cause reduction in local staff, and a corresponding reduction in local content. Local content is what residents value most about our station.

- Our local station is already using their budget efficiently, and using volunteers to provide content when possible. I know this because I volunteer to record and edit community calendar messages for local broadcast.
- One thing that I appreciate about KUCB is the way that it collaborates with other local service providers. I work for the City of Unalaska, and all of our community events are publicized over KUCB Radio. But we're not the only organization that benefits. EVERY SINGLE LOCAL NON-PROFIT works with KUCB to promote their services and events. Examples include collaboration with the local domestic violence shelter and health clinics to promote healthy lifestyles and provide information about domestic violence, suicide prevention, child abuse prevention, and smoking cessation. KUCB also works with Public Safety to publicize emergency alerts and road and school closures.
- KUCB is a part of a strong network of 26 radio stations that work together to provide our entire state with quality content. Alaska residents value the services of public radio, and we are so lucky to have such a strong public radio presence. The strength possible because of State of Alaska funding.
- I hope that you will consider restoring funding in this area. [Alaskan communities depend on Public Radio as important sources of news and information.](#)

Respectfully,

Robi Harris