

HB 69 – Repeal Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission

Letters of Opposition



Alaska Public Interest Research Group

To: Alaska House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

From: Alaska Public Interest Research Group

Re: House Bill 69, "An Act repealing the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission; and providing for an effective date."

The Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AkPIRG) is writing to express our strong opposition to House Bill 69, the bill to eliminate the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission.

AkPIRG, established in 1974, advocates on behalf of public and consumer interests. To our knowledge, we are the only non-governmental organization focused on addressing Alaska-specific consumer interest issues.

Public broadcasting is an essential service in Alaska and the APBC is a part of the service. Public broadcasting creates a more engaged public, from new and media announcements to Gavel Alaska, which allows the public access to legislative affairs and creates a more informed electorate. Supporting the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission is supporting public broadcasting funding.

The APBC is a group of Alaska citizen volunteers that work to understand the system of stations and their needs as they make decisions around funding. Coordinating these efforts reduces inefficiencies and redundancies, and creates communication between networks around the state to provide a statewide perspective.

The APBC benefits all Alaskans, so it is in the public's best interest to keep the APBC. AkPIRG encourages the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee to keep this valuable service and protect the interests of your constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Veri di Suvero", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Veri di Suvero

Executive Director

Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AkPIRG)

Arnold Liebelt

From: Cortni [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 3:57 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Public Broadcasting HB 69

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for your time and please do not approve HB69. We need the Alaska Public Broadcasting Committee!

KTNA is a part of every day life in Talkeetna. KSKA is a necessity for whenever you have to go into town. Without them, I would never know what was going on in the world and I would not know any songs to sing. Please don't take our public ALASKAN radio away!

- Public broadcasting is an essential service to America. The APBC is crucial to the service in Alaska. Alaska is part of America. Please do not disband it.
- Like public radio in many rural Alaska communities, KTNA is the only local news source, especially for local election coverage, high school sports, local issues & changes, and other community issues.
- Like public radio in many rural Alaska communities, KTNA is the only local source for emergency alerts and messages during natural disasters like fires, floods, and earthquakes and informs our community about emergency response.
- KTNA, like other public radio stations, is an independent community-owned station that elevates local voices, shares events, informs of incidents, reviews local history, educates about the environment, and builds community cohesion.
- KTNA provides year round employment and informs the public of work openings at any business. Volunteers for the station can learn essential skills to add to their resumes.
- For the state's minimal investment in public broadcasting (less than three-hundredths of one percent of the state budget), we can keep the APBC going. Communities match that investment 3 to 1 and greater with local funds, volunteer time, grants, and donations.

Thank you for your time and please do not approve HB69. We need the APBC!

- Cortni Ruth

[REDACTED]
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Arnold Liebelt

From: Fritz Iversen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 6:56 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Save Public Radio

I write to urge the continued support of public radio. As a resident of the bush, public radio is my only source of live contact with the outside world. It is vitally necessary in cases of emergency and to stay abreast of current events. I also consider it essential in maintaining my mental health. I disapprove of any cuts in funding to public radio.

Frederick Iversen
Katie Lake
Talkeetna AK

Arnold Liebelt

From: mary gunderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 9:20 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Funding for Public Radio

Please do not cut funding for our local public radio - KTNA (Talkeetna). Our radio station is an integral part of our community, We depend on our radio station for local news, announcements and emergency information. It is also an important service for people off the grid that listen to KTNA's Denali Echo's for messages from loved ones or information regarding appointments etc. We have limited services in this area. Our public radio station is one service that we rely on. Please consider continued funding for KTNA.

Respectfully,

Mary Gunderson
Talkeetna, Alaska

Arnold Liebelt

From: Carol Hazeltine [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 9:44 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: HB69

To the House Committee and Regional Affairs Committee,

As a 40 year resident of Alaska, my need for public broadcasting continues to grow. I have relied on public media to enrich my life and help to keep me current about local news and issues that affect my life on a daily basis. This SERVICE to Alaskan residents is vital, particularly in places that are remote and the far reaching radio waves are the only source of information available. Public media is for the people to keep them informed about current events that affect them personally, particularly: emergency events, government proceedings and election coverage, educational broadcasts and cultural entertainment. These stations are often the heartbeat of small communities that keep residents informed of local events that help make these communities so enriched and connected. So much volunteerism goes into these stations which is clear evidence of how they are valued.

The funding for public broadcasting appears to be minuscule in the big picture of the state budget, but is profound in it's affect on the services it helps provide the public.

Please save our funding for the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission. Please vote NO on HB69.

Thank you, Carol Hazeltine

Arnold Liebelt

From: robin song [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 12:05 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: KTNA Radio

Greetings~

I am writing in support of continuing State funding to Public Radio Stations, including KTNA in Talkeetna. I lived in Homer and McGrath, and moved to Talkeetna in 1987. I was involved with the radio stations as a supporter and avid listener and when the radio station went on the air in Talkeetna, I couldn't have been happier. I know how crucial Public Radio stations are to rural and bush Alaska. They are absolutely vital to keep people in touch who live remote. They serve all kinds of functions.

I write Nature stories for KTNA, and also submit my photos. This outlet keeps me in touch with the community. I live alone and semi-secluded, and coming into the station to record my stories gets me out of the cabin and involved with people.

Listening to the radio is important to so many; for weather reports, road conditions, any emergencies such as earthquakes/power outages, etc.

Please keep the funding intact for this vital service.

Thank you,
Robin Song
Talkeetna

Sent from my iPhone

Arnold Liebelt

From: molly rettig [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 1:29 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: i support public broadcasting

Public radio is the only source of news and programming for hundreds of Alaska communities. While I live in Fairbanks, I've traveled to many rural villages for my job, and have seen how much they rely on public broadcasting. In a time where opinions and misinformation is so widespread, it's more important than ever to continue delivering quality journalism and educational content to villages. It is equally important in Fairbanks, where I listen to our local station KUAC every day. Without it, I wouldn't be able to follow what's going on in our state government, national government, and local community. It's literally my lifeline to the rest of the world.

Thank you for your time,

Molly Rettig
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Arnold Liebelt

From: Barton Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 4:38 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: HB 69, House Community and Regional Affairs Committee Hearing

Ladies & Gentlemen, Congressmen, Citizens of the Great State of Alaska:

This email message pertains to HB69, the bill to eliminate the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission. Support for retaining the APBC is the proxy for supporting public broadcasting funding—*and I support that funding with both my heart and my wallet*. My money goes to KTNA and the Matanuska Susitna borough.

I live in Columbus Indiana.

In 2015 I travelled to Talkeetna, Willow and Wasilla, Anchorage, and Palmer. I also hiked and climbed in the Talkeetna Range and spent time at Denali and the lower Chugach. It was my first trip to your state and I spent 10 months learning everything I could before I went. I didn't go for a vacation, but to know the place and the people. I spent several thousand dollars on lodging, hiking and climbing equipment, park fees, transportation rental, air and ground transportation, food, museums, retail sales, art and educational materials. Parts of the trip were undoubtedly among the hardest things I've ever done, and terribly intimidating, and exhausting. And I loved all of it.

I met so many extraordinary people everywhere I went. I've never felt so welcome in a place as I have by all of you. You invited me into your homes, and you fed me, and you introduced me to your friends, and told me important things that made your lives strong. I can list names of people who talked to me for hours and shared their lives even though they might never see me again.

I depended *heavily* on Alaskan Public Broadcasting information available over the web to prepare for and make the trip successful. Public Broadcasting is unique in being able to give extensive everyday personal detail about how you guys live and what you live for. I learned about individual communities, the things you struggle with, weather systems, ecosystems, animal behavior, local characters and regional history, specific businesses, writers, and business owners. And it wasn't this "reality TV garbage".

Because of the information available through Public Broadcasting, I was able to make meaningful lasting connections everywhere I went. I felt at home in Anchorage, among people living and working in rural communities, at the bases, and navigating the miles of tundra, muskeg, and mountains. My trip to your state utterly changed my life! Alaskan rural and city communities and their people are so diverse and unique. It takes extra effort, grit, and constant vigilance to live successfully in your state. Reliance and communication with each other in the trust of community in spite of differences is critical to just everyday work and life.

These qualities are what America has to have to thrive.

These aspects of what it is to be a citizen of Alaska are crucial arteries of heritage that go into what it means to be an American and a good human being: self-reliance, resilience, a strong connection to each other and to the earth, a willingness even yearning to do hard things, development of character as you overcome obstacles, sacrifice, and seizing opportunity.

I left your state with stories and experiences that still haunt me and make my life rich. Alaska Public Broadcasting and everything educational is a critical part of what makes your people strong and some of the best people on the planet. Keep the APBC and fund your future. Having known you makes my heart glow, and I think about it at least a little every day. I try to be like you.

Sincerely yours and with great respect and admiration,

Barton A. Smith,
Member KTNA, Talkeetna
[REDACTED]
Columbus IN 47201-4316

Arnold Liebelt

From: CONNIE MASTERSON [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2019 11:59 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Public radio

I realize internet and our technology today is very valuable. So is public radio to Alaska! Many in rural areas depend on it greatly. Please do not cut public broadcasting. To some it's their only access to the outside world, especially the elderly. When I was young that's all my grandparents ever listened too. Now living back in rural Alaska for over 12 years the importance is a comforting memory. Let's keep public radio going strong for many years to come!

Connie Masterson
[REDACTED]
Barrow, AK. 99723
[REDACTED]

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Arnold Liebelt

From: Nancy Crowden [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 4, 2019 9:17 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Cc: Corinne Smith
Subject: Public Radio

Hello,

I am a volunteer at KTNA Talkeetna and KNBA Anchorage.

Public radio means a lot to people of the communities around Alaska. Every year at Christmas there is a call in show on Talk of Alaska which is unique to Alaska. Nowhere else in this country can people call in LIVE to wish others Merry Christmas from all around the state.

The show I do in Anchorage, The Truck Stop, is even broadcast on KYUK Bethel.

The station in Talkeetna has Denali Echoes where people can get messages to friends who live off the grid, don't have phone service, and rely on KTNA for news, weather, local events, and entertainment. Many people in my area still live without electricity and landline phone service. No tv, no internet. JUST the radio.

Public/ community radio is personal, informative, and commercial free. Live shows are live. DJs can play whatever they want to.

NPR shows are entertaining and do many genres so people can pick and choose what they want to hear, the same with live shows. I do country and western shows. There are jazz shows, reggae shows, many different types of music. If you listen to say KBER, you will only hear country, the same things several times a day. NOT on public Radio.

Public Radio is important to me and to many others. Please don't cut funding.

Thank you,

Nancy Crowden

Willow, Alaska

Please, don't short change Public Radio in Alaska.

Arnold Liebelt

From: Ruthie Strong [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 4, 2019 11:37 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: KTNA 88.9

Please help support public radio. In so many areas it is the only link to news and information.

Thank you

Ruth Strong

Arnold Liebelt

From: cici schoenberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 12:32 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs; KT W.
Subject: Maintaining funds for public broadcasting

I am writing to support continued funding for the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (APBC). I am a resident of Talkeetna where the **only** radio station that I can tune in to is KTNA, a public radio station. The community strongly supports this station by our memberships, however we could not handle the very significant cut to the budget that would come from zero funding. Not only do I listen to public radio for my personal enjoyment as well as gathering information about world, national, state, and local news, but because I cannot tune in to other stations I would not have access to information in an emergency. This is essential for our community. I recognize that funds in Alaska are limited but there are many options for increasing revenue that need to be explored. I believe that funding for public broadcasting is critical when compared with receiving a large PFD.

Sincerely,

Lucille (Cici) Schoenberger
[REDACTED]
Talkeetna, AK. 99676

Arnold Liebelt

From: Victoria Baker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 1:39 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Louise Stutes
Subject: Repealing Public Radio Commission is not an option

I am whole-heartedly against HB 69. I know I am among thousands of Alaskan voices, both rural and urban, who oppose this.

Thanks,
Torie Baker
Cordova

Arnold Liebelt

From: Mary Corcoran [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:00 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Public Testimony--Written-- HB69

To members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

I oppose HB69-- the repeal of the Public Broadcasting Commission.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Public broadcasting is an essential service in Alaska and the APBC is a part of the service. Public broadcasting is not just an entertainment issue; it's about information. In rural areas, coastal and inland, broadcasts are relied upon for weather (marine, land and air), civil emergencies, local news and information that one will not receive on syndicated broadcasts. I am a contributing member of three public radio stations/tv. Trust me--they would not get a dime from me if their service was not valuable to my quality of life.

The APBC is a group of Alaska citizen volunteers that work to understand the system of stations and their needs as they make decisions around funding. Alaskans have shown huge support for Public Broadcasting in terms of donations and volunteer time right down to the local level.

The APB Commissioners are from communities across the state and help provide a statewide perspective on the broadcasting stations that benefit from state funding. As State residents, we are a collective and have a responsibility to all in the reception areas. The APBC's coordination of these services is essential for the health, safety, welfare and education of Alaskans.

Thank you for your attention.
Mary Corcoran
Delta Junction

From: [Kathy Bracken](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 9:15:11 PM

Members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to strongly protest HB69, which would repeal the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (APBC). Alaska needs APBC and Alaska needs Public Radio.

I am a 48-year resident of Alaska, and have lived in Petersburg for 43 of those years. KFSK, our local public radio station, has been on the air for about 42 years.

I can't imagine what it would be like to live here without public radio. KFSK is the heartbeat of our small, isolated community. The voices we hear are like family, they're so familiar, consistent and important in our lives.

KFSK public radio is our lifeline. We listen to our public radio station to find out daily road reports in the winter, local and marine weather reports 365 days a year, local news three times a day, school events, including live sports events if it can be coordinated. Petersburg has only a weekly newspaper, so we tune in to our **public radio station** for the local, state, and national news. Community events are announced several times a day. These may be as simple as a change in landfill hours or as urgent as utility outages or road closures. The announcements can be as serious as instructions for where to go in a tsunami alert. **KFSK Public Radio** is our Emergency Broadcast Network.

Public Radio/KFSK is essential to the functioning of our isolated community, and our community radio station could not function without grants that are administered by the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission.

I urge you to reject HB69.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.

Respectfully,
Kathleen Bracken
705 Sandy Beach Rd.
Petersburg, AK 99833
907.650.7443

Sent from my iPad

From: [juliette vries](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Cc: [Lauren Adams](#)
Subject: Funding public broadcasting
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 3:37:50 PM

I'm a sustained supporter of KUCB and Alaska One. The information about the weather, road conditions and community events are an invaluable help to daily live. The music and informative shows are such a pleasure. There's been many a time I've stayed in my car after reaching my destination to hear the end of an interview. For this community public broadcast is an important and valued medium. Keep funding going. We rely on itm

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Christina Chamberlain](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 9:51:32 PM

To: House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

I am contacting you to urge you NOT to dismantle the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission by passing HB 69. As a resident of Unalaska / Dutch Harbor for almost 29 years, I can personally vouch for the vital role our local radio station, KUCB 89.7 FM, plays in our community. We rely on it for local and statewide news, as well as NPR programming, weather information, local sports coverage, PSA's, reminders about community events, and a wide variety of music and entertainment.

KUCB 89.7 FM is also the place we turn to in the event of an emergency, knowing that it will be able to provide us with timely and accurate information. I was in Anchorage when the earthquake occurred on November 30, and as I drove back to my hotel, the radio station I was listening to in my car proved to be a lifeline for countless listeners, providing information about damaged on/off ramps, dangerous intersections, where the power had gone out, etc. Our little station here brings us together in good times and bad, and the prospect of losing it is unimaginable.

Again, I urge you to support the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission by defeating HB 69.

Thank you,

Christina Chamberlain
PO Box 223
Unalaska, AK 99685

From: [Wayne Aderhold](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Cc: [LIO Homer](#)
Subject: HB-69 - AGAINST
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:10:05 PM
Attachments: [WA-HB69-RepealPubBrdcstComm_050619.pdf](#)

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee: Please accept the attached testimony (**AGAINST**
on HB-69 (Public Broadcasting Commission))

I have schedule conflicts tomorrow morning, so I do not expect to be able to register at my local LIO in order to testify in person.

Sincerely,

Wayne Aderhold

353 Grubstake Ave.

Homer, AK 99603

From: [Joe Page](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB69 Public Broadcasting
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 6:55:34 AM

Public broadcasting is an essential service throughout Alaska, especially in rural and remote communities. Public broadcasting such (as KTNA in Talkeetna) not only keeps people informed about local news, emergency alerts, and important community events, but it connects people across the state with programming such as *Alaska News Nightly*, *Line One-- Your Health Connection*, *Talk of Alaska*, and *The Alaska Economic Report*. These programs all contribute to an exchange of ideas and are essential to a healthy, well-informed democracy.

Please support full funding for Alaska public broadcasting.

Sincerely,

Joe Page
Talkeetna, AK

From: [Karen Mannix](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB69
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 11:02:46 PM

Hello,

I am writing to show my advocacy for PUBLIC radio in Alaska (and the country.) It is a vital public service to so many communities in Alaska, especially rural communities who rely on PUBLIC broadcasting for news, emergency alerts and updates, and vital communication.

Currently, the Alaska state budget gives only 0.03% of its budget to PUBLIC broadcasting and communities match that funding 3 to 1. I am a sustaining member of my radio station. I feel people deserve state financial support for broadcasting that brings them well-informed, educational, and up-to-date programming.

I urge you to NOT support HB69, which would gut Alaska Public Broadcasting. As the budget process progresses it is important to realize why people want to live where they do. I value public broadcasting, public health services, public education, public universities, among others. If the legislators of this great state see fit to undo the services that the public relies on, uses, enjoys, and VALUES, Alaska may well become a state with very few people. These services are integral to a healthy state, and public broadcasting is no exception.

Thank you from a 40-year resident.

Sincerely,
Karen Mannix
PO Box 284 Talkeetna, Alaska

From: [Sean McPhilamy](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: in support of funding public broadcasting
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 1:01:58 AM

Good day.

I am writing in support of Talkeetna's community radio station, KTNA, along with the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (APBC).

KTNA is an important part of my life and an important part of my community connection in Alaska.

For the past four years, I have been assigned away from Alaska as part of my duties in the United States Coast Guard. As a military service member, connection to community is essential, and KTNA helps provide this network for me, no matter where I am stationed.

I am greatly appreciative to be a member of KTNA, even though at the moment, I can't turn on my radio to listen to friends and neighbors volunteering to provide local news, election coverage, and art events. Instead I am able to do this through the internet and stay connected to my community.

But I am very aware that in Talkeetna, as in much of Alaska, that the local community radio station is often the first source to report on emergency alerts and provide support during earthquakes, fires, and floods.

I am looking forward to returning to Talkeetna at the end of this current assignment and once again listening locally to KTNA in the morning with my first cup of coffee.

KTNA is essential, and the APBC is essential. I support both.

Thank you,

Sean

—

Sean McPhilamy

22252 South I Street
Talkeetna, Alaska

PO Box 324
Talkeetna, AK 99676

SeanMcPhilamy@mac.com
(907) 947-4310

From: [Cindy Lelake](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: In support of public broadcasting
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 5:31:00 AM

Dear Committee Members:

Public broadcasting is essential to Alaska. Please ensure that full finding is restored to the final version of the operating budget.

As the budget heads in to conference committee, now is the time to act!

Thanks for all you're doing to set the course!

Cindy Lelake
Anchorage

From: [Steve Lindbeck](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Please support public broadcasting in Alaska
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 6:30:30 PM

To the Committee:

Alaska's public broadcasting system is a treasure for communities from Ketchikan to Kotzebue, Utqiagvik to Unalaska. Because Alaska is unlike any other place in the United States, so is its public broadcasting system. Dedicated Alaskans in 26 communities have sweated hard over 40 years to build those radio and television stations, and now is no time to abandon them.

So I rise to speak against the governor's proposal to defund public broadcasting and eliminate the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission.

This proposal threatens to eliminate these services from those communities that rely on them most. The larger stations -- in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau -- will survive one way or another whether the State of Alaska abandons them or not. Their services would be lessened and their communities' hopes reined in if state funds are withdrawn. Who'll suffer first and most will be the smaller communities -- Fort Yukon, Kenai, Petersburg, Chevak, and others. Alaskans' (and others') long-term investment in this system will be at risk very quickly because there simply aren't enough dollars in these communities to replace both the state funds and the federal match lost.

Every year these stations reach out to their communities and achieve astonishing levels of per capita support. It is an expression of local devotion we damn-sure need more of in our state. Every year foundations and businesses step up to provide dollars and expertise to keep these stations on the air. Every year individuals of every description and political persuasion band together with gifts large and small to keep these voices alive.

You will hear from them, I am quite confident. I hope you will channel these voices to the Governor and prevail upon him as well. These stations repay far more than they cost to all of us.

Thank you for your consideration and your hard work to maintain a system we cherish.

Respectfully,

Steve Lindbeck

Mobile: (907) 242-1482

907sel@gmail.com

2600 Redwood Street

Anchorage 99508

From: [Margareth](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Public broadcasting
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 7:46:36 PM

Hello,

I have lived in Talkeetna for 25 years. KTNA radio has been such an integral part of my life here. We lived off grid for years, without local phone service. KTNA provided Denali echoes, which gave communication for us without phones. It also is the only way to hear local news, weather, and community events.

We have had a few disasters; a couple large earthquakes, wild fires and floods during my time here, and KTNA was the only form of Emergency contact.

Public broadcasting is so important to our rural community. It is a small investment for the state, with the community matching 3 to one, with local funds, volunteer time and other grants.

Thank you,

Margareth Twigg
P.O. box 168
Talkeetna, AK 99676

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: [Maureen McLaughlin](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Retain the APBC
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 6:34:53 AM

Dear Alaska Legislators,

The Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission provides an essential service to Alaskans, particularly in rural communities like mine. In Talkeetna, our local radio station KTNA binds our community together like no other entity — thanks to its news reporting, its diverse programming, and through its special events.

Time and time again, during increasingly prevalent emergencies like floods, wildfires, earthquakes, wind events, and prolonged power outages, KTNA stays on the air and provides critical life safety information to residents and businesses. Everyone tunes to KTNA — Anchorage news outlets simply do not and cannot address safety concerns specific to our region.

And in less emergent times, KTNA keeps local residents informed on matters critical to daily life, including environmental concerns, political discussions, election information, and almost everything on down to reports of lost dogs, local meetings, and transfer station closures.

Please consider the devastating repercussions of the loss of community radio. Funding for APBC is a drop in the bucket compared to the cost of public safety in rural Alaska.

HB69 is pennywise and pound foolish. Retain the APBC!

Thank you,

Maureen Gualtieri
PO Box 1071
Talkeetna, AK. 99676
907-733-3432

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rakkasan68](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Cc: [Tom Abbott](#)
Subject: Support for Public Radio in Rural Alaska
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 9:39:23 PM

Public radio is an essential service rural communities outside the rail belt. In Petersburg, we have only one radio station. We have no choice and no commercial alternatives. KFSK Fish Head Radio in Petersburg broadcasts meetings of the borough assembly, the school board, and the hospital board. We get local news and announcements that would never appear in statewide media of communication.

KFSK broadcasts tsunami warnings and other emergency alerts. The station has been active in our community since the 1970's. If state support were to disappear, all the resources we have invested in building the station would be wasted.

We need public radio in rural Alaska.

Sam Bunge
Fire Chief (1998-2008) retired
Subscriber to KFSK

From: [Barb Marsh](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Support funding for public broadcasting in Alaska!
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 8:44:33 PM

to the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

Please support funding for the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (APBC). Our state, with a small population spread out over a very large area, relies on public radio stations for news, weather, emergency alerts and messages. The public radio stations are such a small investment to make and the return on that investment comes back in healthy, well informed communities. These local stations are full of volunteers that give their time and efforts to bring local voices and stories to the often very rural populations.

Thank you,
Barbara Marsh
1300 W 46th ave
Anchorage AK 99503

From: [Diane Ziegner](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Public Broadcasting
Date: Monday, May 6, 2019 10:08:29 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing to show my support for Public Broadcasting in Alaska. In our large and mostly rural state it is a vital link for our communities. I urge you to support continued funding for this essential service that provides local news and emergency information to our communities.

Thank you,

Diane Ziegner
Talkeetna, Alaska

May 6, 2019

To: House – Community & Regional Affairs Committee

From: Wayne Aderhold (representing myself), and also as a member of the Board of Directors, KBBI Public Radio, Homer

Re: HB-69 – Repeal Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission : **Against**

Co-Chairs Drummond and Hannan, and Members of the Committee

I do not believe this bill is justified – please allow it to die in committee.

Public broadcasting (radio and TV) is the critical source for information transfer and two-way communication throughout the state of Alaska. We, the members of our station that we serve, are both supportive (with our wallets) and reliant on the current level of service our station provides. If anything, we desire to improve our level of service.

To eliminate the current governance structure (the Commission) without any replacement body, appears both short-sighted and unfounded. Hints at privatizing a public entity makes no sense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Aderhold', written in a cursive style.

Wayne Aderhold

Homer

From: [Mandy Evans](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Against HB 69
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 7:24:41 AM

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to say no to HB 69, and to continue full support for public broadcasting in Alaska. The APBC is an essential part of that service - as I am sure you are aware. I serve on local and regional boards for public radio, and I volunteer my time in this way because I believe it is essential to our way of life in Alaska. Please retain the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission!

Thank you for your service,
Mandy Evans
Sitka, Alaska

From: [Susan Padilla](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Against HB69
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 7:58:45 AM

House Community and Regional Affairs Committee Members

I urge you to support the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission and to vote against HB69.
This is vital to our small communities and is our lifeline to news of our state.

I strongly support Public Radio and the work the commission does to bring this broadcasting to our community.

Sincerely
Susan Padilla
Sitka Alaska

Sent from my iPad

From: Phutton@ak.net
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: APBC
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:44:51 AM

Please do not repeal APBC. They serve an important connection to our state.

Pete Hutton

"Stay Humble and Kind"

907 347 7136 (cell)



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [bo](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Funding for public broadcasting comments
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 8:39:50 AM

Do not cut funding for public broadcasting in Alaska. As a rural AK resident I rely on public broadcasting every day.

Thanks,
Danile Varsano
box 1714
Petersburg AK
99833

From: [Lori Gregory](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Fwd: Proposed FY20 State Budget
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:39:48 AM

Let's try this again. :)

I am writing in support of funding for the following items:

1. Public Broadcasting and the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission
2. Power Cost Equalization
3. Alaska State Ferry System.

and opposing the governor's plan to take a greater share of our tax revenue.

These first three items need the support of government and are vital services for rural Alaskans, and if the fourth is enacted, life in Rural Alaska will be forever changed, for the worse.

Public Broadcasting is a life/safety issue!

We need local public radio to keep us informed in case of emergency.

Without the PCE, our kWh rate will be closer to \$1.00 when accounting for the fact that the City of Unalaska Electric Utility adds the cost of power adjustment to our electric bill, which is at \$0.47 per kWh now.

Our town will be decimated and we provide a huge portion of revenue to the State via fish taxes already.

If state government takes a larger share of our tax revenue, that cost will be passed to the citizens, who already carry the burden of a much higher cost of living.

It seems this administration wants to eliminate rural communities, ones that rely on the ferry system for goods and services and tourist dollars, the PCE to keep our cost of living down, and Public Broadcasting, which literally helps us to stay alive.

Please, have a thought for those towns not on the road system and how these choices affect us.

Please stop giving our money away to oil companies, who will continue to drill here because of the existing infrastructure, and choose to support ALL Alaskans and our unique way of life!

Thank you,

Lori Gregory
PO Box 177
Unalaska, AK 99685
907-359-5463

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lori Gregory** <aleutiangrrl@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 7, 2019 at 9:23 AM

Subject: Proposed FY20 State Budget

To: <hcra@akleg.gov>

Hello~

I am writing in support of funding for the following items:

- 1.

From: [Angie Bowers](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB69
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 8:33:00 AM
Attachments: [HB69 public radio.docx](#)

Dear Members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to listen and consider my thoughts on public braodcasting.

Public radio is an essential part of my life and I rely on it for local, state and national news and emergency information. Each time the power goes out, or there is an earthquake, or I hear the tsunami alarm I turn to our local public radio station.

The proposed bill HB69 would eliminate the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (APBC). APBC is a group of citizen volunteers who know what is going on in public broadcasting around the state to help understand the system of stations and their needs so decisions can be made about funding. They are an essential piece to continued service around the state for local news and emergency alerts. I am NOT in favor of HB69 and its elimination of APBC.

Public broadcasting is a key service for all Alaskans and I am not in favor of any cuts to service or funding.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Angie Bowers
Sitka

From: [Kenley Jackson](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB69--Please do not eliminate Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 8:10:48 AM

Dear Members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts.

I rely on public radio in Sitka for news coverage and emergency alerts. The proposed bill HB69 would eliminate the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (APBC). APBC is a group of citizen volunteers who know what is going on in public broadcasting around the state to help understand the system of stations and their needs so decisions can be made about funding. They are a critical piece to continued service around the state for local news and emergency alerts. I am NOT in favor of of HB69 and its elimination of APBC.

Public broadcasting is a key service for all Alaskans and I am not in favor of any cuts to service or funding.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Kenley Jackson
Sitka

From: [Support](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#)
Cc: [Rep. Laddie Shaw](#)
Subject: Oppose HB 69
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:25:38 AM

Co--Chairs Drummond and Hannan
Members of Community and Regional Affairs

My name is Laura Bonner. I speak for myself and live in House District 26.

Please reject HB 69, the Repeal of AK Public Broadcasting Commission. Alaska Public Broadcasting is critical to the fabric of Alaska in both urban and rural areas. While the Commission was created to develop a statewide integrated public broadcasting system, it is still necessary to maintain that system. Public broadcasting is so critical to relay emergency messages, weather and other communications for many communities.

I strongly oppose HB 69, and I hope you will reject it.

From: [Beverly Hoffman](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Cc: [Zulkosky Tiffany](#); [Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky](#)
Subject: opposition to HB 69
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 8:46:46 AM

Just a quick message in opposition to HB 69. Every year someone proposes to cut public broadcasting funding and I wonder why? I've been a KYUK volunteer for over 40 years and know it is a important part of communication for those who live in this region. KYUK has also produced historical documentaries both for radio and television that are being archived. Please support public broadcasting. Respectfully Beverly Hoffman

From: [Nikki Love](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Please Oppose HB 69
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:59:15 AM

Dear Policy Makers,

Thank you for the hard work you are doing on the state budget.

Please, oppose HB 69 and continue funding for public radio.

Our family often depends on this radio source as the only one available. It is a lifeline of information to rural and remote areas.

Regards,

Mrs. Nikki Love

Juneau, Alaska

Grandmother, Alaskan Native, Taxpayer, Voter

From: [Heather Lende](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Cc: [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); jonathan.s.kt@gmail.com
Subject: Public Broadcasting & budgets
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 7:33:32 AM

To the AK Legislature :

Please keep PBS funding in the budget . Small towns like Haines and Klukwan rely on our only local station for news and information . As a Haines borough assembly member I know for certain that their coverage of our meetings helps shine light on the public process, and educates, and enlightens residents on how we govern ourselves and the issues we are facing as a community and a state and now more than ever this is critical --

Also, it is such a small portion of the largest deficit that cutting it won't have much of a positive impact on the budget but will have a big negative impact on Alaskans .

I support an income tax and I suggest you look at oil tax credits and a reduced dividend (1000 is plenty and what most of us have come to expect or count on) to fill the budget gap, not the small but valued service like public broadcasting that frankly makes Alaska , Alaska -

While you are at it please save the ferry system and pay your debt on our school.

If I sound frustrated I am - Alaskans are speaking , please listen and do the right thing for people , rather than Outside interests and the richest corporations in the world . We are better than this, don't you think ?

Thank you for your service -

Heather Lende in Haines Ak
907-766-2852

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.heatherlende.com&d=DwIEaQ&c=Q8iJasR7RZ-J0Fd9RXD9ZA&r=0daYja3ilEqEEF4RG5JhWg&m=2P0jRS6p_kd9gEQSwXOCsQuCih9pHNemqK9RhkEKJYA&s=78H7xtmUKxfBt62lHryAul4iskG5YYuCDK0c4Bl-gas&c=

Find the Good

From: [Patricia white](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Public broadcasting Commission
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 8:32:58 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am a long time listener to Public Radio, and am saddened to read that this administration is considering eliminating funding for the Commission.

Commercial and for profit broadcasting limits the balance of programs. Public broadcasting allows for more opinions and views on local and national issues. Freedom of the press and its relevant sources of information is vital to our country.

It seems to me that this Governor and his administration is trying to quell freedom of the availability of news and information options, with his plan to decommission Public Broadcasting.

I strongly oppose this idea.

Thank you,
Patricia White
Juneau, Ak

From: [Cari Sayre](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Public radio
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:20:32 AM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. I have been an avid listener and supporter of public radio for 45 years. Public radio provides a balanced voice that is much needed by citizens of a democracy, and I sincerely hope that you who hold the purse-strings of our state will decide to fund it.

In Talkeetna, where I have lived for 40 years, KTNA is the only source of local news, which is especially important at election time, or during times of local decision-making. It is critical during natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or fires. During those events, our local radio staff spends literally all day and night making sure we know what is happening and what we need to do to stay safe.

During non-emergency times, KTNA is the glue that holds our diverse community together and helps us get to know and appreciate each other.

Our local station has huge community support, but without the state's contribution, it would not survive. We need KTNA! Please help keep local stations on the air.

Thanks again,
Cari Sayre and Dave Johnston
Talkeetna residents, public radio listeners/supporters and KTNA volunteers

From: [Marja Smets](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Support for public radio
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:21:27 AM

I would like to voice my support for public radio in rural Alaska. My local radio station, KFSK, is an indispensable part of our community. It keeps us tied together and informed of what's going on both locally and nationally. It helps us in emergency situations and it gives a voice to other non profits in town. I can't imagine living in rural Southeast Alaska without it. Please do not cut anymore funding to Alaska's public radio stations!

Thank you,
Marja Smets
P.O. Box 1714
Petersburg AK 99833

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cushing](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:58:03 AM

Dear Representatives Drummond, Hannan and Committee,

I was unable to testify today because the time ran out. Thank you for accepting my written testimony. I urge you to defeat HB 69. The accompanying letter says that “non governmental entities” can provide the function of the Alaska Broadcasting Commission. This commission uses volunteers and has minimal costs, As you heard in the testimony today, it is a complicated system that they know well, which assures fair access to funding throughout the state. Eliminating the commission is part of trying to end public broadcasting in Alaska.

Public Broadcasting is the information lifeline to towns in Alaska, day to day and in emergencies, and not just in rural Alaska. When the November 30 earthquake hit, my family that lives in Anchorage had a media blackout, but they could text. So they texted me 800 miles away in Petersburg; I was able to hear the emergency notifications on my local radio station KFSK and relay that information to them by text, to boil their water and what ramps and roads near them had collapsed or closed.

Our public station is the main way I keep informed of local and state issues. State funding has already been reduced by almost 50%. It is needed to obtain federal matching funds. Thousands of volunteer hours supplement the paid staff positions. Our community donations are also generous and the station depends on these.

I believe we have the highest per capita membership in the US for a public radio station. This shows how important public radio is to our residents.

Sincerely,

Marlene Cushing
Petersburg, Alaska

From: [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#)
To: [Sarrah Khelifi](#)
Subject: FW: HB 69 Public Broadcasting funding cut
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:02:54 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Gray <dcgray@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:50 AM
To: Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 69 Public Broadcasting funding cut

Hello Rep. Drummond,

Please do not let HB 69 pass on to the consideration of the body. Public broadcasting is essential to the functioning of the Borough, School Board and State as it provides discussion much more detail Than even local newspapers do. It also is a vehicle for investigative journalism which needs to go on in daily operations of the State. Research from the University of Alaska has been disseminated via this means in a more efficient means as not all can come to town halls or lectures at their venue.

Equipment does need to be maintained regularly and even in this last 7 days the main station of KUAC has failed for a day. We need to support the few staff members they have. We need to leverage Federal funds and have all of the committee support we can gather to keep broadcasting broadly representing the various peoples of this state. We do get more emergency alerts from radio and TV via this mode.

Thanks,
M. Carolyn Gray
399 Hillside Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#)
To: [Sarra Khlifi](#)
Subject: FW: Alaska Public Broadcasting helps connect Alaskans: Do not gut the APBC
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 10:29:53 AM

From: Anne & Bill <wkwitte@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 12:20 AM

To: Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sharon Jackson <Rep.Sharon.Jackson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Joshua Revak <Rep.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov>

Subject: Alaska Public Broadcasting helps connect Alaskans: Do not gut the APBC

Alaska Public Broadcasting is a powerful single thin thread that binds together the Alaskan Community. It binds together rural and urban, young and old, arts and sciences in a state that today seems on the verge of flying apart.

Except for defunding the ferries in SE, there is no more treacherous threat to isolating and alienating separate Alaskan communities than gutting APB.

The governor's weak pretense that he has no choice because "we are out of money" is by now a laughable charade -- Governor Dunleavy ginned up this crisis to generate commercial opportunities for his outside donors. Privatizing public radio will bring in shock-jocks, hate radio, and fragmented discourse into profitable echo chambers.

In Fairbanks commercial radio carries very little local news -- it's mostly programmed top-forty music (never a local artist), or UFO talk, or recorded rambling hateful drivel from out of state. The unorganized borough is even more reliant on APB and both urban and rural depend on APB for two-way communication between Alaskans.

Alaskans need independent, relevant, locally created public broadcasting,

Bill Witte
Anne Doerpinghaus
Goldstream Valley
Fairbanks

From: [Barry Bracken](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION
Date: Thursday, May 9, 2019 8:37:56 AM

Members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to strongly protest HB69, which would repeal the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (APBC). Alaska needs APBC and Alaska needs Public Radio.

I am a 57-year resident of Alaska. I lived in Valdez during the 1960's and recall having to string a wire antenna just to receive commercial a.m. stations from Anchorage. We had no emergency broadcast system available to help or guide us during one of the worst disasters in Alaska's history.

I have lived in Petersburg for the past 43 years. KFSK, our local public radio station, has been on the air nearly the whole time we have lived here. I recall how excited we were when the station first came on the air and have been impressed by how it has evolved and matured over the years. I can't imagine what it would be like to live here without public radio. The news, the weather, the community and school events, public service announcements, emergency broadcasting - KFSK is the only reliable and consistent daily source of local information and statewide news in our small, isolated community.

Perhaps legislators who live in the rail belt and have access to competing commercial stations don't understand this, but **Public Radio/KFSK** is essential to the functioning of our isolated community, and by the same token, public radio is vital to much of rural Alaska. Our community radio stations simply can not function without grants that are administered by the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission. Why would you even consider taking that away from us?

I would gladly forgo part or all of my PFD and pay a reasonable state tax if it means retaining many of the established programs which help make Alaska such a great place to live. To me, public broadcasting definitely fits in that category.

I urge you to reject HB69.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.

Respectfully,
Barry Bracken
705 Sandy Beach Rd.
Petersburg, AK 99833

907.518.0019

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: [Douglas Smith](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Continue funding Public Radio!
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:03:09 AM

I am outraged by the suggestion that the state stop financial support for community radio. In a rural area like ours, the local public radio station is a vital link for community news, disaster preparedness, and an important builder of community cohesion. The bang the state gets for it's minimal bucks is phenomenal, as witnessed in volunteer hours, member financial support, and an informed public (priceless!). There is no substitute for local community radio!

Thanks for taking my input.

Doug Smith
Talkeetna, Alaska



Alaska State Legislature

DILLINGHAM
Legislative Information Office

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Community & Regional Affairs
(committee name)
committee on HB69, dated 5-7-19
(bill # / subject)

The Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission was created to assure the equity of funds distributed from the legislature to public broadcasting entities (including television and radio). This elimination appears to axe public broadcasting funding (if I read the fiscal notes correctly). This cut would inhibit, restrict and hinder the public's access to news their government and emergency broadcasting information. Private or "non-governmental entities" are not going to step up and replace the nominal infrastructure. The state's support of public broadcasting provides equity throughout the state. Another nail on the coffin of the bush.

Signed:

Testifier

Anna Carpenter

Welcome carpet baggers

Representing (optional)

myself

Address

P.O. Box 701 Dillingham AK 99576

Telephone

907-842-4797

From: [Anne Wieland](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 10:28:42 PM

Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission is an essential part of the Public Radio system. It must be supported. Do not repeal it, Public Radio is essential to our safety.

Anne Wieland
Homer

From: [Mark Morrow](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 69
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 9:29:11 AM

Sir,

The Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission provides essential services to the State of Alaska. Note that it is not just rural Alaska. KSKA provided essential service to metro Anchorage during the November 30 earthquake. However, most of the state is quite rural and would be harmed if support for public broadcasting were zeroed out.

In a similar way to potable water, wastewater treatment, and other public utilities, we can't turn the radio broadcast off without injury to our communities.

My message to you on this committee is that Alaskans can pay taxes. Everyone else does. Income tax, sales tax, or a combination of both. After we get some revenue stream going, we can argue about luxuries not education, transportation, public safety, public radio, and other essential services.

Unless we want to be like Haiti just colder....

Sincerely,

Mark Morrow

From: [George Clemens](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Cc: maryclemens1957@hotmail.com
Subject: HB69
Date: Thursday, May 9, 2019 2:10:14 PM
Attachments: [HB69.txt](#)

Please see the attached document from Mary Clemens. It is public testimony about HB69.

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [maryostermick](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Cc: [Corinne Smith](#)
Subject: House Community and Regional Affairs Committee hearing on HB 69
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 11:11:08 AM

I am writing in support of my local radio station, KTNA, and public radio in general. Here in Talkeetna KTNA plays a critical, unique role in our community. If/when there are emergencies (which there have been, such as floods and earthquakes) KTNA is the one place to go to get updated relevant information. It is imperative the services provided at a time like this remain available for the well-being and safety of the community.

Likewise, KTNA provides local news, informing people, among other things, of community issues. What a great, important service this is! This adds to one of the underlying functions of KTNA – that of building cohesion within our community.

KTNA means many things to many people, but there is no question that KTNA is a vital part of the greater Talkeetna community. Please provide funding to continue support of KTNA, an integral part of our community.

Mary Ostermick

P.O. Box 827

Talkeetna, AK 99676

907 733-2467

From: [Bill Tremblay](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: I oppose HR69
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:13:25 PM

I provided some comments earlier today during the public hearing but I wanted to provide just a few more.

The presentation from the administration regarding this proposal was embarrassing, to say the least.

- Having them discuss ARCS instead of public radio showed the efforts by the administration wasn't meant to provide information to the Committee but just an act to deny a needed service to rural Alaska.
- The administrations' presentation showed a lack of preparedness showed a lack of concern for the facts. Noting more than 100,000 people in their grafts and only speaking about ARCS wasted valuable time, with little to spare in the session.
- I know this was a companion piece of legislation to eliminate all funding for public radio and television but what was disturbing was the proposed elimination of these services without a clear idea of how critical notification of emergencies in rural areas wasn't addressed with an alternative is distressing. It is almost as if persons in rural Alaska are considered expendable.

Bill Tremblay
P.O. Box 662
Petersburg, AK 99833
(907) 772-4461

From: [Jeff Bochart](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Keep our radio stations on the air . . .
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 3:39:18 PM

My argument is a simple one.

Small local radio stations have been the glue helping to keep communities united in AK for decades.

Many folk depend on it for local flavor and perspectives. So, it is crucial to maintain these stations. Especially since in today's mainstream media that is largely dominated by opinions based on political bias.

To simply prune away the funding with a backward swipe of the hand is both thoughtless and ignorant.

Please see what you can do to keep these little broadcasting ships afloat.

Thank You and Sincerely,

Jeff Bochart

39 mi Haine Hwy

Haines, AK

May 9, 2019

Alaska House of Representatives
Committee of Community and Regional Affairs

re:HB69

Hello,

My name is Mary Clemens and I am from Petersburg, Alaska. I was one of the five who were unable to testify on May 7th due to time constraints. I was ready to testify this morning until I heard the opportunity was cancelled. Thus I am sending my remarks via email. Thank you for taking public testimony on this bill, HB69.

I am opposed to HB69. This bill seems like a big step toward eliminating state funding for public radio and television in Alaska.

While HB69 does not directly de-fund public broadcasting, the commission is necessary if there is any state funding for public broadcasting. And I am in strong support of state funding for public broadcasting.

Our local public radio station, KFSK, in Petersburg, is the ONLY radio station in town. We do not have any local television stations. The radio is our daily news source. For example, earlier this week, the Borough Assembly met for their regular meeting with some controversial topics on the agenda. Our radio station covered it all live. The next day KFSK reported on the meeting during their regular newscasts so those who could not listen live were informed about it very quickly. This is important. This is how we get local news daily. Our local newspaper is only published once a week.

KFSK does much more than reporting local news. It lets us know about upcoming events and happenings in our town daily (several times a day in fact). That list is often quite long for our busy town.

And of course, the radio is critical during emergencies, like tsunami warnings, which we have experienced in the last few years. KFSK broadcasts what to do and where to go on our island during these emergencies. They can relay information quickly about which places are filling up and what alternatives are available.

One more issue about state funding for public broadcasting concerns matching funds. While state funding is not the only source of income for KFSK, if it is cut or eliminated, federal matching funds would also decrease. This would make the impacts of decreased state funding much greater.

I ask that you do not pass HB69 and instead support public broadcasting in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Clemens
P.O. Box 865
Petersburg, AK 99833
907-518-9089

From: [Perry Edwards](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: NOT in favor of HB69! please vote against
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:48:51 PM

*Public broadcasting is an essential service in Alaska and the APBC is a part of the service.
(Why you value it in your own brief words is always fine.)*

- The APBC is a group of Alaska citizen volunteers that work to understand the system of stations and their needs as they make decisions around funding.*
- The APBC Commissioners are from communities across the state and help provide a statewide perspective on the broadcasting stations that benefit from state funding.*

Dear Members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

I have lived in Sitka for 14 years. Public broadcasting has been an essential service in the state of Alaska and Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (APBC) is a critical part of that service. I listen to public radio in Sitka for news coverage and emergency alerts among many other reasons. The proposed bill, HB69, would eliminate the APBC and this is a terrible mistake. APBC is a group of citizen volunteers who know what is going on in public broadcasting around the state to help understand the system of stations and their needs so decisions can be made about funding. They are a crucial piece to continued service around the state for local news and emergency alerts. I am **NOT** in favor of of HB69 and its elimination of APBC.

Public broadcasting is a key service for all Alaskans and I am not in favor of **ANY** cuts to service or funding.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration in this matter.

James "Perry" Edwards

From: [Paul Kelly](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Opposition to HB 69
Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 10:44:26 PM

Co-chairs Hannan and Drummond, and Members of the House Committee on Community and Regional Affairs;

I am writing to state my opposition to HB 69, and indicate my support for public media. It is a valuable resource, which I use almost every day to stay informed on local, state, national, and international events. In an age where misinformation abounds, it is important to subsidize quality journalism.

Please do not allow HB 69 to pass out of committee.

Thank you,
Paul R. Kelly
House District 34

From: [Judy Erikson](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Please continue to fund the APBC.
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 2:05:06 PM

Dear Alaska Senators and Representatives,

Thank you for your continued support of Public Broadcasting in Alaska. Please continue to fund the APBC as they are a diverse group of QUALIFIED and EXPERIENCED individuals that help keep Public Radio viable, serving the public and professional. When I was the GM at KHNS, I was very grateful for their help and expertise when needing to fund a new transmitter or to upgrade equipment to keep up with technology. They are committed to finding ways to save money, use what money they have more effectively and hold each station to a high standard. Public radio is a vital and essential service here in Southeast Alaska and helps to keep us all informed and educated on the current issues. When looking at the big picture, you will notice how much public broadcasting is supported across all social, economic and political divisions, KHNS in Haines is an example of such support as it has been the leader nationally for highest donations per capita. On the whole public radio does a great service to the residents of Alaska and in the "Spirit of Uncle Ted" should continue to be supported.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Judy Erikson
Business Manager-HBSD
907-766-6734

Judy Erikson

From: [Michael Tobin](#)
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Public Broadcasting Commission
Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 7:59:48 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am opposed to eliminating funding for the Commission. Public radio ties Alaska together and strengthens our state culture. It is one of the best things to which public money contributes. Please work to strengthen, not weaken public radio. Thank you.

Michael W Tobin
PO Box 34577
Juneau, AK 99803

Sent from my iPad