

# House Finance Committee

## Public Testimony

### HB 205 – Operating Budget FY21

Emails received to

[HouseFinance@akleg.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@akleg.gov)

Feb 20, 2020

**From:** kris miller <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 5:25 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Fund the Alaska Marine Highway

To whom it concerns:

I live in Haines, and I have been practicing as a physician assistant in Juneau since 2011. For years, I have depended upon the safe, reliable service provided by the Alaska Marine Highway to get between Haines and Juneau. The dependable ferry system has also reliably transported my patients to Juneau from all over Southeast Alaska. The recent changes to the ferry service has been a terrible burden for me, and has adversely affected the patients I serve as well. The Alaska Marine Highway is a lifeline for the communities of Southeast Alaska, and an essential service, every bit as important as the road system. What is more, there will never be a road system in Southeast to replace of the ferries.

In order to meet the need of my patients, I have been forced to take more risky forms of transport to and from Juneau this winter. I have attempted to fly with a commercial airline, however the winter weather makes flying wholly unreliable, and dangerous. I have hitched rides on fishing vessels making the trip. After being stuck in Juneau for more than a week, I chartered a small sport fishing boat with five other people trying to get to Haines. This latest trip was risky and harrowing as the visibility was reduced due to snow, and the seas were as high as 6 feet.

Patients from out lying communities are reporting all matter of hardships due to the reduced ferry service. Medical care is being neglected due to travel difficulties. People are being stranded because the planes can't fly. Even more appalling, patients have told me of food shortages in their communities because of the absence of the ferry system.

The Alaska Marine Highway is an essential service. It is our highway and vital for everyone who lives and visits Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,

Kris Miller  
[REDACTED]  
Haines, Alaska 99827  
907-[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jo Woodward <[REDACTED]@mail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 5:24 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Gov. Dunleavy's PFD's 1982 law, State land Trade Budget Amend.

**Thursday February 20, 2020**

**Greetings...House Finance Committee: In all due respect I won't have an opportunity to attend either meeting and hope this emailed input is counted.**

**RE: PFD's 1982 law: I ask no other PFD check be mailed this year. Though the supplement would help. The food market prices alone have escalated to beyond an astronomical amt. and the extra funds would be welcomed. Though I reiterate, I hope no further PFD check is mailed this year. But next years equated amount is welcoming.**

**No State Land Trade. You see what the commercial businesses have done to the waters where**

they are currently established. We do not welcome their pollution and destruction. Besides the buildings after decades will need to be replaced and abandoned w/a repeated cycle some place else. Personally I do not want to witness ALASKA becoming another lower forty eight state. With old, vacant, dilapidated buildings, polluted waters, etc. Left uncared for and abandoned. Perhaps for the next generation. Leave Alaska out of State Land Trade agreement you have planned. Jobs are important but there are jobs and we can create jobs that will be less dangerous to our environment, health, etc.

No Budget Amendments for abortions matters. Hopefully Alaska voters will vote for no more abortions unless the mother's life is in danger. Then that is a decision for the parents to make but should be legal if their choice is abortion.

Thank you. ... Ms. Jo Woodward [REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99775.3251 [REDACTED]@mail.com

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From: Mindy O'Neill <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 5:15 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Operating Budget Testimony

Greetings Members of the Esteemed House Finance Committee,

There are many items that deserve reconsideration of funding in the budget, but today my comments will focus on support for the \$1,000,000 funding for **Public Broadcasting**.

Across the state, 30,000 Alaskans are members of 27 local radio or TV public broadcasting stations. 11% of total funding for public broadcasting used to be provided by the state to deliver quality programming; the rest is raised from members and underwriting. The station managers across the state have made due with these arrangements, but still require state funding to operate effectively. The state relies on the connectedness of the public broadcasting system to provide not only culturally relevant information and nationwide programming, but also an emergency system to access in case of a natural disaster, such as the Anchorage Earthquake in 2018.

Please consider this an investment in communities across the state and support this funding line item.

Thank you, Mindy O'Neill  
Former Alaska Public Broadcasting Commissioner

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**From:** Tiffany Hall <thall@recoveralaska.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 5:08 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Suicide Awareness, Prevention & Postvention Grants

Hello House Finance Committee,  
Attached please find a letter of support for various programs in HB205 and HB206.  
Thank you for your work,  
Tiffany

**Tiffany Hall**

[Executive Director](#) | she/her



3201 C Street, Suite 110  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
907-249-6644



February 20, 2020

House Finance Committee  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Recover Alaska to ask that you approve \$400,000 GF for suicide prevention grants that provide training, curriculum development, and evidence-based peer-to-peer and culturally relevant programming for schools statewide. Please also approve funding for therapeutic courts, reentry services in the Department of Corrections, the Holistic Defense Project to address treatment in the pretrial population, and homelessness assistance programs in HB205 and HB206.

Recover Alaska is a multi-sector action group working to reduce excessive alcohol use and its harms across the state. Our vision is for Alaskans to live free from the consequences of alcohol misuse, so we are all empowered to achieve our full potential. We have partners in related fields across the state, and understand the improved outcomes of addressing suicide alongside alcohol use disorders. It is critical to consider both issues for maximum effectiveness.

We know that alcohol misuse and mental health disorders often go hand-in-hand. We also know that alcohol misuse impacts suicide rates negatively.

- Between 2015 and 2017, of 562 deaths by suicide that underwent toxicology testing, 70% tested positive for alcohol or other drugs.
- Between 2009 and 2018, 1,728 Alaskans died by suicide, accounting for 4.2% of all Alaskan deaths, and making suicide the sixth leading cause of death in that time period.
- Alaska has nearly double the suicide rate as the national average. In 2018, Alaska's suicide rate was 24.9 per 100,000, compared to the national average of 14.2 per 100,000 people.
- Alaska Natives and American Indians continue to be one of the most at-risk populations for suicide in Alaska, with a rate of more than three times the national average (41.9 per 100,000) in 2018. The rate among Alaska Native youth age 15 to 24 years was 119.6 per 100,000, more than double the rate of all Alaskans in that age group.

We also know that in FY19, 7,826 Alaskans used the Department of Education and Early Intervention's (DEED's) prevention eLearning modules created with Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Postvention (SAPP) program funding. Reported outcomes from statewide grantees include higher rates of students seeking help, increase attendance, and higher graduation rates. For these reasons, we need to continue to fund suicide prevention. We urge you to fund the SAPP Grant Program (DHSS).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this letter. Thank you for your consideration and your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Hall  
Executive Director

**From:** Sierra Mills <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 5:08 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** please support full funding of public radio

Good afternoon,

I am not able to come to the public testimony on Friday yet want you to know how important this is for myself and my 11 year old daughter. WE have learned so much about our state, world/US and local history and as well as current events. We love the music and feel so much more connected to our community. We don't watch tv to get our news, only the radio and always feel in the know, despite living so far away. Thank you for supporting this wonderful cause, this community needs this. Please support this one hundred percent, we/I need this.

thank you,  
Sierra Mills

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**From:** Sharon Hunter <[REDACTED]@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 5:05 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget

I want to thank each and every one of you for your earnest and hard work in the contentious and difficult task before you.

I am submitting my opinions and ideas regarding fiscal needs for our state. First I am going on record to say if we are serious about cost cutting all government contracts must be fairly bid.

Our dividends need to be capped at \$1000 in order to maintain a long term dependable return from the fund to citizens.

It is of paramount importance for the viability of coastal Alaska to have ferry service, let's put the 41 million dollars for the Kake Petersburg road which will serve little to no purpose toward the ferry system for a start.

If the Alaska Marine highway is to be neglected let's also stop any maintenance of highways in the interior, after all people who choose to live there know that earthquakes and avalanches are just part of being there.

Public radio is the only available communication system in rural AK and zeroing out all state support should be reversed.

Public education and our universities are absolutely necessary and should be fully funded.

Oil companies must not be subsidized and the structure of state agreements with them must reflect an equitable return for the extraction of our resource.

For far too long we have allowed our state to supply jobs and resource extraction without any return and so I propose taxing income as the best way forward to a fair burden on all who live and work here to provide an ongoing reliable budget for Alaska.

Thank you,  
Sharon Hunter

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**From:** Anne Fuller <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:59 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** testimony on Alaska operating budget

To the Representatives,

I am Anne Fuller. I live in Juneau. My position on the budget is that we need to get more income. Yes, we should tax the oil companies more as well as tax workers and property owners.

So far, I have read of proposals to reduce funding to school districts (by not allocating money), to reduce the income of fishing port towns (by seizing the fish tax), and to reduce the income of residents - even children (by limiting the Permanent Fund Dividend), and to reduce scholarship money for our university students. Taxing income is a better idea.

This year, the schemes of a tiny lottery and a huge draw from savings have been advanced. Let's have sensible discussions of imposing taxes.

I want Alaska to be a safe place for children to grow in and elders to thrive in. My priorities are for sensible regulation that protects water, air, and living things. Free public schools, libraries, and university offerings across the state matter to me. We need to fund our VPSOs, troopers, magistrates, judges, courts, diversions, detention facilities, and rehabilitation facilities. Public health clinics (for physical and emotional health) are essential. Airports, bridges, ferries, roads, docks make our economy work. There are important regulations for labor safety, elections, drivers licenses that we must enforce.

We don't need experts paid with lavish contracts to write our budgets, to give special assistance to our commissioners and our elected officials, to plan our transportation system, or to take the public employees to court.

Please take action to raise the state's income. Yes, I am willing to pay taxes, so you should tax wages earned, corporate profits, and even pensions. The simplest steps seem to be a payroll tax on everybody working in Alaska and also an income tax based on Federal income tax payments (so once I've figured my federal taxes, I can see my state tax as a percentage of that).

*Anne Fuller Juneau*

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**From:** Lara Law <llaw@sailinc.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:25 PM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**Cc:** Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Budget Testimony: Operating and Mental Health Budgets

Please find testimony from Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) attached to this email.

Thank you!

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Lara Law, LMSW  
Independent Living Coordinator  
766-3297







Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Lara Law and I'm calling from the community of Haines. I am calling to represent Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL), where I serve as Independent Living Coordinator. SAIL supports some 1,600 people with disabilities and elders scattered throughout 18 communities in the Southeast panhandle to live as independently as possible. Thank you for taking the time to hear my brief testimony.

I am calling in today to urge you to fully fund the Operating and Mental Health Budgets for FY21. I would especially like to draw your attention to a few of the budget items which make a world of difference to our consumers. They are the Coordinated Transportation Services, Public Guardians, Guardians ad Litem and Telehealth Service System Improvements budgets.

The Coordinated Transportation Services budget makes it possible for SAIL to provide taxi vouchers and a 24 hour on-demand accessible taxi service in Juneau and Ketchikan for people with mobility challenges. SAIL consumers who use these programs say that they have opened up their worlds in incredible ways. For example, before the taxi voucher program consumers in Ketchikan who live off the regular bus route had to take a bus at 7am and only be able to return home at 5pm. They would be away from home for these 10 hours, often lugging groceries and home supplies between doctors' appointments, the pharmacy and paying their bills, all while out in the elements. This was exhausting and degrading. Now the taxi voucher program allows them to schedule doctors' appointments at their convenience and make additional trips to get groceries without relying on family and friends' work schedules. This funding is vital to our community members' independence and wellness.

The Coordinated Transportation Services budget also funds Catholic Community Services' Care-a-Van programs across SE communities. Haines, like many small communities, has no public transportation. Therefore, Care-a-Van is the only public *and* the only accessible transportation options for elders and people with disabilities. It is used extensively. It provides means for SAIL's consumers to get to and from medical appointments, Senior Lunch, grocery shopping and opportunities to socialize. We urge you to fully fund this program.

I am also calling to urge you to fully fund the Public Guardian, Guardian Ad Litem budget. The current case load for guardians and conservators is truly untenable. SAIL staff coordinates regularly with guardians and conservators to help them ensure the housing and basic needs of our joint consumers are met. However, at times they allow people to languish in homelessness and dilapidated housing because they are not able to get to their cases. For example, a SAIL consumer with a conservator returned to Haines last winter without a place to stay and it took me more than a week to get a call or email



response from his conservator. Although this conservator – and SAIL – have made efforts since then, this senior with severe dementia still does not have a monthly income or decent place to live. Please fund this budget to reduce caseloads and dramatically improve services for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Finally, we urge you to fund the Telehealth Service System Improvements. Telehealth is vital to the health of our small communities which have limited mental health providers and specialists. It also allows for timely nurse assessments for Medicaid Waivers. Medicaid Waivers cover long-term supports and services which allow people with disabilities to live independently and access assisted living, when needed. Without telehealth, people with significant, long-term disabilities in rural communities have to wait months and months to get assessed and, if found eligible, get on the waitlist for the appropriate Medicaid Waiver.

On behalf of people with disabilities and elders across SE, SAIL urges you to fully fund the Operating and Mental Health Budgets. Thank you for your time and your service to Alaskans.

From: Francesca A <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:12 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Cc: Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Public testimony HB 205

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am not in support of HB 205

The PFD is not revenue for State Budget. We Alaskans own the PFD and it's resources. We are the source of government. Follow traditional statutory law. The PFD should not be included in the budgeting as revenue funds. No changes the PFD without a vote of the People. Enough is enough.

We should not have any bills that are going against the PFD traditional statutory law. If you want to change that put it up to a vote by the people who own it.

I do not consent to theft of our PFD royalties. Return our withheld royalties. Follow traditional statutory law. Law makers should not be law breakers.

I oppose HB 205  
No deficit budget.  
We want a vote.

Francesca Allegrezza

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**From:** Nancy Crowden <[REDACTED]@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 3:51 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** NPR

SAVE NPR

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**From:** Lucy Peckham <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 3:08 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** APM & KBC

To the Alaska State Legislature:

Please continue full support for Alaska Public Media and Koahnic Broadcast Corporation, as well as all other public media outlets in Alaska! The value of these organizations to local and statewide audiences cannot be overstated. As a supporter of the arts, literacy, un-biased investigative reporting, and LOCAL information, I rely on these networks to keep me anchored and informed on Alaskan issues and Alaskan people.

Full Disclosure: I donate to these two, and other public media organizations around the state, but they can't do it without your support as well, the Alaska State Legislative branch of government. Please - continue full support for public media in Alaska.

Lucy

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Lucy Peckham  
[www.both-ears.com](http://www.both-ears.com)

[REDACTED]

~ she/her/hers

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**From:** Hilary Young <hilary.young@juneauschools.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:44 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Thank you - SAPP Funding

House Finance,

I wanted to thank you for adding the \$400,000 funding back in for the Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Postvention (SAPP) Grant Program. The funding is critical and we really appreciate your support!

Thanks!  
Hilary

Hilary Young, LCSW  
Juneau Youth Services  
Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition  
523.1605

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**From:** Mica Night <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:43 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Personal testimony in support of FULL funding for public media

To whom it may concern:

I am a lifetime Alaskan resident who resides in Anchorage. I have relied heavily on Public Media my whole lifetime. I COMPLETELY support FULL funding of public media because it:

1. Creates a virtual statewide early learning classroom featuring high-quality educational television content, such as Molly of Denali, In My Family, Sesame Street, and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.
2. Connects, informs, and encourages all Alaskans to engage in civil conversations and participate in the unique civic and cultural activities of our great state.
3. Distributes important news and cultural content like National Native News, Native America Calling and Indigefi.
4. Provides culturally relevant news/talk and entertainment programming to underserved Alaska Natives, which helps connect underserved rural communities by sharing a variety of programming that keeps them connected, engaged, and informed.
5. Allows public Radio and TV stations to replace aging broadcast equipment while securing the only statewide communications infrastructure that provides potentially life-saving EAS and AWARN alerts, news, and information.

I am unable to testify in person. Please consider this my testimony.

Thank you,  
Mica Night  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Christian Dau <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:43 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for full funding of APM/PBS

Thank you for the opportunity to give support to public broadcasting via radio and television in Alaska. My wife Carla and I attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks during the 1970's and lived and worked in southwest Alaska for four decades during which time public broadcasting was a great source of information and education enjoyed by all our family. My wife Carla and her family have been Alaskans since the 1950's and I have lived here since 1971 and Alaska has been home most of our adult lives. We have three grown children all born in Alaska who have enjoyed and supported public broadcasting all their lives.

We have helped support public broadcasting since its beginning and can personally testify that the loss of the products provided would be sorely missed as a result of reduced funding from the State of Alaska. Many Alaskans, including my family and I, have been happy to help with funding over the years.

Financial support from Alaskans is a great testimony to how much AMP/PBS is appreciated by residents of our state. Carla and I are both retired now but we are still glad help with our support.

We continue to congratulate APM/PBS for providing outstanding education and entertainment programming that is so essential to keeping all Alaskans well informed with timely and unbiased news reporting and unique educational programming. We would encourage Alaskans to review other networks in Alaska and see that public broadcasting provides exemplary and unmatched media services for all of us.

My family and I, as enthusiastic listeners and viewers, are happy to congratulate all other concerned Alaskans who contribute to public media; keep up the good work! APM/PBS is a necessary resource for all of us and we support continued efforts to keep the networks active and well funded. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak-out.

Regards,

Christian Dau

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From: Dixie D. Banner <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:35 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: HB 205

Please cut the budget across the board and right size State Government! That is also include defunding many of the Social agendas and special projects that are fostered in Juneau; ie esp Medicaid. Furthermore defund OCS for the office operates illegally, destroys families and uses our kids as a financial tool.

In addition, cut the University budget and require to consolidate; the President salary needs to be cut significantly! Speaking of education, reduce Administrative costs and put the funding in the class room; cut principal and superintendent's salary! Require Schools to reduce extra curricular activities that are associated with high transportation costs! Flying kids outside is not acceptable the money should be used to buy books and support infrastructure! Yes the schools that were damaged during the earthquake. Please use common sense vs positional power to destroy us as a State! We want a full a PFD.

Nevertheless we can no longer operate as we have in the past and we have to offer our children an opportunity to live and exist in AK for years to come! Allowing Cathy Geisel and Company to destroy it is not acceptable.

Thank you for your time and assistance!

V/r

Dixie B

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From: Carol Joyce <[REDACTED]@alaska.net>  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:31 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Public funding for public broadcasting

I believe public broadcasting is a major contributor to our quality of life. My husband is fatally ill and we are very isolated. He spends most of his time enjoying Nature, Nova, Science Friday and so many more programs that are informative and entertaining. There really is nothing else like it. Please protect this national treasure!

Sincerely,  
Carol Joyce  
Kasilof. AK

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**From:** Burt Napierala <burt@aracak.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:31 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** full funding for public radio and television

I support full funding for Koahnic Broadcast Corporation. It is very important to Alaskans, this service educates all Alaskans.

Koahnic Broadcast Corporation promotes diversity in the arts community and supports all locals in Alaska plus gives them a voice all the way to Washington DC.

***Burt Napierala***  
**Arctic Refrigeration**  
**500 West Potter Dr.**  
**Anchorage AK. 99518**  
**Office (907) 562-8856**  
**Fax (907) 562-8857**  
**Cell (907) 230-8361**  
[burt@aracak.com](mailto:burt@aracak.com)

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**From:** John Lyons <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:22 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** request full funding for public radio and television

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing to implore you to provide full funding for public radio and television. Public radio and television is the #1 means that my household and many like it are informed of local and regional news and civic and cultural events. It also provides alerts and updates in the event of dangerous natural events like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, winter weather, and flooding. I live in Anchorage, but know that public radio ties together and provides critical information for villages off of the road system across Alaska. Much of public radio is local - made by Alaskans, for Alaskans. There is no other service like it, and the argument that the internet or cable news made elsewhere now serves this purpose is clearly wrong. Please support our public voice, our public media. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
John Lyons  
Anchorage, AK 99516

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**From:** Clyde Boyer and Vivian Finlay <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:06 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget comments

I have given comments numerous times to numerous legislators and to legislative committees. Governor Dunleavy seems to want the "public" to keep giving their opinions and comments. I want the legislature and particularly you, important committee members of the House Finance committee, to use your knowledge - which is much greater than mine- to draft a budget that is sustainable and that does not show a huge deficit. As far as I understand, the State has cut services beyond what is reasonable. Our State's credit rating has been lowered because we do not appear financially stable. We have spent a good deal of our savings. The oil companies who do business here are not taxed "fairly" and have been given huge credits, so that doesn't help our budget. We have not attended to our infrastructure - roads, ferries, future planning for climate change, rural village water and sewer systems, etc. Our care of our elderly and vulnerable is poor in that care is expensive and keeps getting more so, yet programs to help the poorest have been cut with more cuts planned. People who want to be educated in Alaska and work in Alaska no longer have encouragement to do so - with scholarships being cut and increasingly expensive tuition at our Universities. Our health care is expensive for any citizen. The list of issues our State suffers grows more and more - sexual assault, violence against women, child abuse and neglect, etc. Yet, programs and services are cut which would help serve these populations and/or prosecute the offenders. Our mental health system is "awful". There are no where near the services that various needy populations require. There are private services that are very expensive, and often not accessible by most needy people.

So, I have advocated for years and continue to do so, that we implement a revenue source that is not dependent on oil prices. We need a tax. I am willing to pay for services that I use. I have worked in



Alaska (in the field of mental health) for over 30 years, I retired here, and hope to die here. **I am willing to pay an income tax.** I think that is preferable to a sales tax because it is fairer to the poorest people. Also, I live in Homer which already has a 7 1/2 % tax in the summer seasons. I do not want to pay more sales tax, but I would pay more tax in order to have a viable state with comprehensive services.

I heard the Governor state that "Alaskans do not want a tax". He is wrong. I do want a tax, and I have said so many times and in many different surveys, and many people I know have testified and commented they also want a tax. We want a tax because we want a budget that sustains an Alaska that we can proudly say is our "home". I am ashamed of our current Alaska. I am disappointed with the way we ignore the needs of so many people in order to give everyone "full PFDs". Change the PFD formula, and if everyone must get a dividend, make sure it is a sustainably sized one.

You are the lawmakers, you are the experts, we Alaskans vote for you to make the tough decisions. I do not want the decision making to be handed back to the people. We people do not know the details or have the expertise that you have.

Please do not cut more programs and services; please re-instate needed programs and services, and please implement an income tax.

Thank you,  
Vivian Finlay

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[REDACTED]  
Homer, AK. 99603 USA  
[REDACTED]

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From: Ursula Arctos <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:06 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Public radio

I support funding for public radio. I think it's important in Alaska and provides great information.

Thanks

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**From:** Aurora Jane <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:05 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please fully fund our Public Broadcasting!

Dear Committee Members,

I am an Alaskan of 25 years and a lifelong consumer of our public media. I rely on it to keep me informed, connected to my community, and give me the context through which I can have civil discussions with my peers, which is, as we have all seen, an increasingly lost art.

Without it, there are no outlets of which I am aware that will highlight the issues affecting rural Alaskans, like the effects on Southeast of the loss of ferry service, or the lack of VSPOs to help maintain safety in small villages, and a thousand other issues that matter.

I have toured the studios at Alaska Public Media and Koahnik Broadcasting, and at APM in particular, their equipment looks like it came from the stone age. They are doing the best with what they have but this is not a sustainable situation.

For safety reasons beyond everything I've mentioned, this makes sure that life-saving EAS and AWARN systems, which are crucial for people who do not have the same access to info that more urban communities are used to.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Aurora Ford

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**From:** Chris <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:00 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Email Testimony for Full Funding for Public Radio and Television

To whom it may concern,

My name is Chris Fall and I live in Anchorage. I am writing in support for full funding for public radio and television because I believe they play an integral role in allowing all Alaskans to be informed and connected. While I mainly listen to KNBA and KSKA in Anchorage, wherever I go in the state I find the local public station in order to keep up to date.

Full funding will allow the public radio and TV stations to continue providing this service to all Alaskans, regardless of locale, and will also allow them to replace older equipment to make this service even better and more relevant.

I urge the House Finance Committee to fully fund public broadcasting to continue our great tradition of relevant public options for information and connectivity.

Thank you for your time,  
Chris Fall

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**From:** Mary A. Vavrik <[REDACTED]@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 1:55 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please support public funding for public radio

I listen to public radio every morning to get my news. It is a valuable resource for me. I enjoy the special programming also.

Please support public funding for public radio.

Thank you.

Mary A. Vavrik  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jason Lucas <[REDACTED]@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 1:43 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Alaska Public Media

Hello,

I am writing in regards to my support for Alaska Public Media. I support full state funding grants for public radio and television for the following reasons;

1. Creates a virtual statewide early learning classroom featuring high-quality educational television content, such as Molly of Denali, In My Family, Sesame Street, and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.
2. Connects, informs, and encourages all Alaskans to engage in civil conversations and participate in the unique civic and cultural activities of our great state.
3. Distributes important news and cultural content like National Native News, Native America Calling and Indigefi.
4. Provides culturally relevant news/talk and entertainment programming to underserved Alaska Natives, which helps connect underserved rural communities by sharing a variety of programming that keeps them connected, engaged, and informed.

5. Allows public Radio and TV stations to replace aging broadcast equipment while securing the only statewide communications infrastructure that provides potentially life-saving EAS and AWARN alerts, news, and information.

Thanks for your time,  
Jason

Jason Lucas

VPWdesigns  
Owner Designer Builder  
907.382.0700 [vpwdesigns.com](http://vpwdesigns.com)

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From: Doug Harris <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 1:34 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Public Broadcasting support

Please provide full funding to public broadcasting. It is invaluable to the residents of our state.

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From: Sandy Dauenhauer <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 1:18 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Cc: Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Budget testimony

We need revenue. I support a gasoline tax, an income tax based on federal returns, and a revision of the oil tax structure.

The PFD should be no more than \$1,600 in any year. Realistically, it should be based on current income from the extractive industries and not on the value of the entire Permanent Fund, since the Fund reflects the stock market and not the true state of our economy. The 1982 formula is hopelessly out of date and dangerous to our fiscal future.

We need money put into basic services rather than doled out piecemeal in checks far larger than envisioned in the 1980's.

We must find a way to support the ferry system on at least a reduced schedule. Cutting those communities off without notice and telling them to fend for themselves is ridiculous. The residents of the rail belt would not stand for giant holes in the major highways or missing bridges, and communities dependent on ferries are state residents too.

Public broadcasting is a civic and public safety issue. Please find modest funding to support the smaller stations, at least, so their communities have access to the same information about state government, disaster preparedness, weather, elections, etc. as the rest of us.

Sandra Dauenhauer   Ester, AK

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From: anne stone <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 1:15 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: I Support AK Public Media

I support Alaska Public Media.  
I already support them financially by personal donation.  
I recommend that the state fully funds Alaska Public Media.  
I support personal taxation in AK in order to fund Alaska Public Media,  
among other things in AK that make it an appealing place to live.

Anne Stone

[REDACTED] 99502

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**From:** daltonhmcrae <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:52 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support of Public Media

To whom it may concern:

Koahnic Broadcast Corporation and Alaska Public Media are essential sources of Alaska news and culture. I rely on these sources for their level-headed, unbiased reporting and for the educational and entertainment value that I gain out of them. The locally produced programs on these two stations give voice to real Alaskans and our real concerns. National

Native News, Line One, Hometown Alaska, Midnight Oil, Outdoor Explorer, Alaska News Nightly---all of these programs make Alaska stronger.

I strongly support Koahnic Broadcast Corporation and Alaska Public Media and I firmly believe that the state of Alaska should continue supporting public media at the fullest amount possible.

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**From:** Warren Jones <[REDACTED]@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:41 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Alaska Public Media

House Finance Committee

I support full funding for Alaska Public Media for the following reasons.

1. Creates a virtual statewide early learning classroom featuring high-quality educational television content, such as Molly of Denali, In My Family, Sesame Street, and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.
2. Connects, informs, and encourages all Alaskans to engage in civil conversations and participate in the unique civic and cultural activities of our great state.
3. Distributes important news and cultural content like National Native News, Native America Calling and Indigefi.
4. Provides culturally relevant news/talk and entertainment programming to underserved Alaska Natives, which helps connect underserved rural communities by sharing a variety of programming that keeps them connected, engaged, and informed.
5. Allows public Radio and TV stations to replace aging broadcast equipment while securing the only statewide communications infrastructure that provides potentially life-saving EAS and AWARN alerts, news, and information.

Warren Jones  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

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**From:** Michelle Wilber <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:19 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Fully fund public broadcasting!

I support full funding of public radio and television. Especially in rural Alaska, this is a necessary service, but everywhere in the state it is a service whos value far surpasses the cost.

-Michelle Wilber

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99503

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From: debra lathrop <[REDACTED]@gci.net>  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:14 PM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Public radio

Please please please provide full full funding for public radio. It is essential to our free society, just as schools are, to have a non commercial source of news and information for the entire state, anchorage included! We don't need to be a backwards society, we can afford this!!

Sincerely-debra lathrop

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**From:** Joe Selmont <[REDACTED]@alaska.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:13 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of Public Media

Koahnic Broadcast Corporation and Alaska Public Media are essential sources of Alaska news and culture. I rely on these sources for their level-headed, unbiased reporting and for the educational and entertainment value that I gain out of them. The locally produced programs on these two stations give voice to real Alaskans and our real concerns. National Native News, Line One, Hometown Alaska, Midnight Oil, Outdoor Explorer, Alaska News Nightly---all of these programs make Alaska stronger.

I strongly support Koahnic Broadcast Corporation and Alaska Public Media and I firmly believe that the state of Alaska should continue supporting public media at the fullest amount possible.

Joe Selmont  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK  
99501

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**From:** [REDACTED]@alaska.net <[REDACTED]@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 11:52 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Funding Alaska Public Media

My name is Van Waggoner. I've lived in Alaska for 39 years. Alaska Public Radio and TV has been very important to me. This is the place I go for unbiased news and wonderful nature programming. When my children were small we used AK public TV to

help entertain and educate them. Now our sons and daughters use this program do the same for our grandchildren.

Please continue to fund Public Radio and TV and the highest amount possible. My family and I always contribute each year as these broadcast services are important to our family.

Thanks for considering our request,

Van Waggoner

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**From:** Doug Bartko <[REDACTED]@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 11:48 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Alaska Public Media

I would like to see our state continue funding grants for public radio. Public radio supplies many educational programs throughout our state and there is a need to replace aging broadcast equipment. Since many of the programs are related to Alaska Natives, hopefully our native corporations could increase their contributions to Alaska Public Media with their contributions listed for public review. Our state has an excellent history permanent fund investments. Perhaps permanent fund like investments could be set up for public media, health care for all Alaskans and Alaska education. Our permanent fund investors could also invest for these smaller added funds. The annual politics of one party criticizing the other party of cutting funding for public media needs to be stopped. Some stable financial system needs to be put in place.

thank you  
doug bartko  
palmer

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**From:** Shonti Elder <[REDACTED]@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** full funding for public broadcasting

Alaska depends on public broadcasting throughout the state, so it should be fully funded. Public media is the ONLY way that many small communities can hear emergency alerts, or national or local news. It provides educational programming for small children, and encourages conversations about Alaskan civic involvement. The funding is also crucial for facility maintenance. Public Broadcasting funding needs to be both increased and protected.

I've been a volunteer program producer with KSKA for over forty years, and am proud to be a part of this organization that improves our Alaskan quality of life.

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**From:** Mark Bloch <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 11:37 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Radio and Television

Please fully fund public radio and Television. They are not only essential parts of my life but of so many other Alaskan residents.

I have traveled and stayed in some remote locations and the only true source of news and information is the local public radio station.

Both mediums are commercial free and unbiased (see the nightly NewsHour).

Thank you.

Mark Bloch

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516-4825

Home: [REDACTED]  
Cell: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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**From:** Robin K Waldvogle <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 11:28 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Alaska Public Media Funding

Please consider full funding for AK Public Media. A much needed resource in our state! Full funding will support the following:

1. Creates a virtual statewide early learning classroom featuring high-quality educational television content, such as Molly of Denali, In My Family, Sesame Street, and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.
2. Connects, informs, and encourages all Alaskans to engage in civil conversations and participate in the unique civic and cultural activities of our great state.
3. Distributes important news and cultural content like National Native News, Native America Calling and Indigefi.
4. Provides culturally relevant news/talk and entertainment programming to underserved Alaska Natives, which helps connect underserved rural communities by sharing a variety of programming that keeps them connected, engaged, and informed.

5. Allows public Radio and TV stations to replace aging broadcast equipment while securing the only statewide communications infrastructure that provides potentially life-saving EAS and AWARN alerts, news, and information.

Thank you and again please consider full funding for this much needed resource! Robin K Waldvogle-Kemp

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**From:** Carol Richards <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 11:31 AM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Support State Funding Grants for Public Broadcasting

My name is Carol Richards. My family is originally from Kotzebue. I recognize the importance of public radio, especially in rural Alaska where it's a touchstone, a critical link.

CB radios work within the villages but have limited range. Cell phone reception is spotty. People rely on radio for important safety information, weather warnings, AMBER alerts and local incident reports.

Public radio is important in every community. I now live in Anchorage. I can stream programming. I still wake up to public radio. I still rely on it for local and international news and entertainment.

I subscribe to public broadcasting so I can stream high-quality programming: arts, music, drama, travel shows and news programming that connects us.

Thank you for supporting funding grants for public broadcasting.

Thank you for your services to our communities.

Sincerely,  
Carol Richards  
Anchorage, Alaska

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**From:** Craig Mishler <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 11:20 AM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Public Broadcasting Budget

As longtime senior Alaskan residents, we are writing today to recommend full funding for Alaska Public Media and Kohanik Broadcast Corporation. We watch PBS and listen to NPR more than any other networks and enjoy their commercial-free environments.

These networks provide a public service not only to Alaska's cities but also to many rural communities where there is no news alternative. We especially enjoy their documentaries and alternative music programs which allow us to escape the dreary offerings of mass pop culture and concentrate on topics of special interest to Alaskans.

As a former volunteer at KSKA-FM, it was my pleasure to produce a program called "The Broken Down Pickup Show," featuring bluegrass and old-time music. While we keep up our annual pledge to Alaska Public Media, we realize that state funding helps tremendously to keep local stations alive. We actually get much more than we give, due to continuing state funding. Thanks for your assistance in fully funding the budgets of these vital public entities.

--Craig and Barbara Mishler, [REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99516

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**From:** MARY NEWIRTH <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 11:09 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** AMHS

Please fully fund our ferries!

Feeling stranded in Cordova Alaska!

Thank you,  
Mary Newirth  
[REDACTED]  
Cordova, AK 99574

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**From:** John Jensen <[REDACTED]@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 10:56 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public media support

This is to encourage you to fully fund the public media budget. I help support public media with my monthly contributions but such source funding is not enough. At one time, I relied exclusively on a public media station when I was commercial fishing; I received vital information on openings and closures and possible limits. I relied on that station for news and entertainment and I still listen to and watch public media in the big city. Public radio news tries to provide some depth so we can better understand the "whys" and "hows" behind the news. I could go on but let me close by saying that public media is important to our democracy because it is independent of most advertising (sponsors do deserve some recognition) and an overriding need to make profits. Thank you. John Jensen. [REDACTED]. Anchorage 99516

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**From:** Wayne Aderhold <[REDACTED]@xyz.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 10:43 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony on HB205

Please accept the attached testimony in support of the inclusion of funding for public radio in the operating budget (HB205).  
I would appreciate it if you could provide a copy to each member of the House Finance Committee.

Thank you,  
/w.a./  
Wayne Aderhold  
President, KBBT Board of Directors



Kachemak Bay Broadcasting, Inc. AM 890 / KBBI.org  
3913 Kachemak Way, Homer, Alaska 99603  
907.235.7721 / info@kbbi.org

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February 20, 2020

House Finance Committee

Ref: HB 205 – Operating Budget / Public Radio

Co-Chairs Johnston and Foster and Members of the Committee,

Your support for public radio in Alaska is both needed and appreciated as we continue to progress toward self-sufficiency through both membership and underwriting from local businesses for the bulk of our operational needs.

Our listeners depend on us for national, statewide and local programming that is not available from any other source.

Here at KBBI in Homer we provide live broadcast and streaming (online) of both Borough Assembly and City Council meetings in an effort to enable an informed electorate.

In the realm of public information and public safety, we have recently formalized our association with City and Borough emergency departments to be directly involved in their information gathering and dissemination efforts during any type of public emergency or disaster. We consider this critical function, as evidenced during the 2019 wildfire episodes on the Kenai Peninsula, to justify the inclusion of public funds for a portion of our operating budget.

Thank you for your consideration in support of our public service efforts for our community.

Sincerely,

Wayne Aderhold  
President, Board of Directors  
Kachemak Bay Broadcasting, Inc. (KBBI)

**From:** laura lucas <[REDACTED]@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 10:44 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** budget public testimony on homeless programs

Dear Representatives Neal Foster, Jennifer Johnston and House Finance Committee Members:

I am writing in support of full funding for the **Special Needs Housing Grant (SNGH) and the Homeless Assistance (HAP) Program**, two important programs that have been successfully assisting those of our most vulnerable residents who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. As a social worker, I have worked for programs in both Anchorage and Juneau that have benefited from this funding and witnessed hard earned progress in reaching our goal of ending homelessness in our state.

Here in Juneau, this funding supported the opening of the Housing First facility, Forget-Me-Not Manor, that is now providing permanent supportive housing to over 30 individuals with histories of chronic homelessness and is anticipating opening of the second phase within the year's end. Within 6 months of opening there were 230 fewer Emergency Room visits from this population and 352 fewer nights of supervision for persons sleeping off alcohol intoxication.

By providing emergency rental and utility assistance to families threatened by eviction, the **Homeless Assistance Program** has benefitted the state by preventing homelessness for numerous people experiencing a rough patch in their lives due to loss of a job, a medical condition or some other unexpected situation.

In this difficult budget times, I appreciate the reality that the legislature must take a hard look at each line item. Last year, HAP funded programs experienced a 20% cut. Practically speaking, with fewer resources to support prevention of homelessness, it is inevitable that more citizens will fall through the cracks. The condition of homelessness of its citizens is very costly to this state, putting more stress on a wide array of social services.

For these reasons, I respectfully suggest that in the case of funding these important programs, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Sincerely,

Laura Lucas MSW

[REDACTED]

Juneau, Alaska 99801

[REDACTED]

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**From:** leia@ak.net <[REDACTED]@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 10:40 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Full funding of PBS for Alaska

To Whom It May Concern;

Public Broadcasting is vital to the Alaskan landscape.

Its inclusive broadcasting offers relatable characters and stories for our diverse population.

Its weather and news reports keep us up to date and keep us safe for traveling in inclement circumstances.

Its quite literally a life-saving reference that most have access to even in the bush communities.

Please, please put the most and securest funding in place for this invaluable resource that I and my community depend upon.

Thank you,

Leia Alessandrini

Valdez, AK

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**From:** Meg Kremer <[REDACTED]@acsalaska.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 10:35 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Full funding for public media

House Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to request you fully fund the Alaska Public Media broadcast system. The content is all about Alaska and many people exclusively listen to this station or watch on local television.

Recent children's programs are non- violent, and educational rich which do many families need exposure to. I almost exclusively watch channel 7 locally in Anchorage and listen to 91.1 AK Public Media on the radio. I contribute by maintaining my circle member yearly contributions and have for many years. Please keep this network alive for all Alaskans.

Respectfully,

Marguerite Kremer  
Anchorage, AK

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**From:** SlatonBarker <[REDACTED]@mtaonline.net>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 10:33 AM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** email testimony: request of full funding for public radio and television

To Whom it May Concern,

I am emailing to submit my public comment in support of legislation that would provide full funding for public TV and radio. Public TV and radio stations have such a positive impact on the statewide and local community. I so value the children's programs, I feel so enriched and educated by the range of topics from health shows to election coverage, and the statewide call-in programs make the interesting people and communities across our great state seem a little bit closer. Also of tremendous value is the way public TV and radio provide the infrastructure and mechanisms for keeping all Alaskans informed of emergency announcements and alerts.

Sincerely,

Carla SlatonBarker

[REDACTED]

Eagle River, AK 99577

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**From:** Stephanie Scott <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** February 19, 2020 at 8:56:08 AM AKST

**To:** [Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov)

**Subject:** Transportation: the key to economics and health care

Dear Representative Foster,

Thank you for working to understand our peril without access to ferry transportation. Many many years ago my two year old son's life was saved when the ferry turned around at our doctor's request, came back to Haines, and took us to Juneau - after his request was turned down by the coast guard because of weather. More recently the ferry has been my savior taking me back and forth to Juneau for cancer



treatment (I am now 72). Haines is my home and has been since 1973. Already I have talked with younger people who say that the impact on their economy related to the absence of ferry service may require them to leave. The ferry is not, and has never been, just for tourists. It is for residents; as are roads; as are schools; as is medical assistance; as are the police. Please work to reinstate the ferry system.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Scott

[REDACTED]

Haines, Alaska 99827

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**From:** Mary Lynne Dahl <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2020 12:43 PM

**To:** LIO Ketchikan <LIO.Ketchikan@akleg.gov>

Please open and read the attached opinion regarding the budget being worked on at the present time. Thank you for taking a moment to read my opinion.

To the Alaska State Legislature and Governor

February 19, 2020

In regards to the budget that is being discussed and proposed for the State of Alaska, I would like to offer my views, as follows.

I strongly support funding the Alaska Marine Highway System to the maximum. Failure to do so will leave many coastal communities stranded, economically and literally. It is patently unfair to provide roads to citizens in the interior of Alaska but not for coastal communities. We have businesses, medical care requirements, employment and personal travel needs just like the folks in the interior, but are now being forced to either forgo those travel endeavors or attempt to find other ways to move from one place to another, often at great expense. The AMHS was designed to be our highway, and I consider it essential to all aspects of life in Southeast Alaska where I live. In addition, the island roads in the Ketchikan area are in very bad condition, causing damage to tires and vehicles which are forced to dodge large, deep pot holes daily. These local island roads need immediate maintenance and repairs. I also strongly support full funding for education. Education is the engine that will drive the train, our economy, for the future, the minds and careers that will develop for Alaska in the next decade. Without a solid, well financed educational system, we will be greatly disadvantaged in the marketplace of ideas and skills needed to emerge in the highly technical and competitive world of tomorrow. Do not cut corners in this critical area just to save money overall, because we cannot afford to fall behind educationally.

Likewise, we must honor and take care of our elders, particularly those in Alaska Pioneer Homes. As a state we have shown great respect for elders, and it is shameful if we abandon these principals of taking care of our elders for the sake of money.

You may ask how I would pay for these services. Simple; I would like the legislature and the governor to agree to a reform of the oil tax/credits system now in place in Alaska. I absolutely support the oil companies paying their fair share of the taxes needed to run our state. They do not do so now, and have not contributed their fair share for years, but they do pump and sell our oil, for tremendous profits.

After studying this issue at length, I urge the legislature and the governor to end the tax/credits system now in place and stand up for the citizens of Alaska, by requiring the oil companies doing business in Alaska to pay their fair share. I am likewise willing to pay an income tax to the state as my fair share, but not if the oil companies do not do the same. It is time that the oil companies contribute to the revenues of the state instead of draining the revenues of the state.

Mary Lynne Dahl, [REDACTED], Alaska 99928  
[REDACTED]@gmail.com

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**From:** Nick Parker <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:49 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support Alaska Public Media

Please support public media for the reasons listed below. Our household relies on public media to give us impartial news on the the local, state, national and world events.

1. Creates a virtual statewide early learning classroom featuring high-quality educational television content, such as Molly of Denali, In My Family, Sesame Street, and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.
2. Connects, informs, and encourages all Alaskans to engage in civil conversations and participate in the unique civic and cultural activities of our great state.
3. Distributes important news and cultural content like National Native News, Native America Calling and Indigefi.
4. Provides culturally relevant news/talk and entertainment programming to underserved Alaska Natives, which helps connect underserved rural communities by sharing a variety of programming that keeps them connected, engaged, and informed.
5. Allows public Radio and TV stations to replace aging broadcast equipment while securing the only statewide communications infrastructure that provides potentially life-saving EAS and AWARN alerts, news, and information.
6. Sincerely,
7. Margaret Timmerman

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**From:** Ronald Johnson <[REDACTED]@alaska.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:44 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Richard Seifert <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Budget

I'm totally opposed to the governor's plan to pay a supplemental PFD.

We can hardly afford the 1606 payment,

We need to have a sane approach such as a 75/25 POMV split as a PFD calculation. The rest of the nation is in disbelief. Alaska has no income tax and gives everyone a check. You've got to be kidding.

Ron Johnson

Fairbanks,

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From: Liam Forbes <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:28 AM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: 2020 Budget comments

Dear House Finance Committee Member,

Please prioritize K-12 and University education as the highest and most effective investments you can make in our great state. As a parent, the most important thing I can give my son is the opportunity I had to do whatever I wanted after finishing 13 years of Alaska public schooling. It is vitally important that you increase the public school budget and drive down class sizes across all the grade levels. As an alum, employee, and parent of a possible future UAF student, the investment you make in our university system is also critical to Alaska's success and future growth. Please demonstrate leadership for Alaska by taking the bold stance of rejecting the Governor's Compact forced on the University and reverse too many years of reduced university funding by increasing UA's budget. The return on these investments for Alaska will ensure our state's future success and growth.

As a life long Alaskan and 20 year Interior resident, I thank you for serving in the Legislature and appreciate your hard work on behalf of our state.

Sent from my iPad

Regards,

-liam forbes, [REDACTED], Fairbanks AK 99709

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**From:** Kelly J. Sisson Lessens <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:25 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Sen. Joshua Revak <Sen.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mel Gillis <Rep.Mel.Gillis@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Funding for education needed in Senate District M / House Dist 25

Dear members of the House Finance Committee, Senator Revak and Representative Gillis,

As a mom in the Anchorage School District, with children attending Trailside Elementary School, and a constituent in Senator Revak / Rep Gillis' district, I am

dismayed by the financial shortfalls caused by four years of flat funding in education.

I understand that the State's long-term fiscal outlook is one where expenses will outpace revenue (slide 2), and that there are many funding priorities statewide.

However, I ardently reject the Governor's proposal to spend twice as much on the PFD as on education (see Von Imhof slide 6) while refusing to generate any new revenues.

As your constituent, I wish to tell you that education funding has become the single-most important issue for our family, and that the bare-bottom "efficiencies" that the Anchorage School District has approved for next year's budget—namely, class sizes that continue to exceed best practices, wholesale elimination of a comprehensive elementary Health education, and a one-time use of savings to provide needed opportunities for Gifted students (IGNITE)—have destroyed what we see as an "adequate" education.

On Tuesday evening, I testified in front of the Anchorage School Board to this effect, reminding them that the most mind-blowing part of their budget proposal lay in their plan to ask PE teachers, librarians and over-worked classroom teachers to provide comprehensive health literacy for all students *in half the total time previously allotted*, when the FAQs for ASD's own health curriculum state that each lesson requires 45 minutes. As I continued my testimony, I explained that their plans to gut comprehensive health education seemed especially surprising in a state where obesity rates are significantly higher among low-SES students than their wealthier peers, where obesity-related medical care costs about \$459 million every year, and where the State's responsibility to Medicaid Spending Attributable to Obesity is projected to balloon from \$99 million in 2015 to \$297 million by 2030. I also reminded them that Anchorage students are part of this problem, and that it would be wonderful, instead, for ASD to be able to tell legislators that "we see your long-term financial problems, and here is how our curriculum and increased time for nutrition and physical activity can help."

That ASD cannot provide needed health education, despite making efficiencies, tells us that we are at the end of our rope. I wish to remind each of you that the Legislature—not the school districts or the state education department—has been found Constitutionally responsible for providing adequate funding for schools to provide instruction in the standards. (Moore v Alaska)

The FY 20-21 budget adopted by the ASD School Board—based on inadequate funding from the State—does not allow that body meet its obligation for providing adequate public schools. It is you, then, who must work in a bipartisan manner to generate the funding that will allow ASD and all districts across this state to do so.

Even though education is the state's biggest expense, topping both healthcare and the PFD, Alaska's per-pupil expenditures are on par with national averages. Those education expenses, moreover, reflect outsized energy and healthcare costs. In fact, ISER researchers have found that "The proportion of our (statewide) budget that goes to teacher salaries is 23% below the national average when taking into consideration cost of living and cost differentials in delivery of education throughout Alaska."

To more adequately provide an adequate education for every student, here in Anchorage and across the State of Alaska, I wholeheartedly suggest that you embrace a combination of the following actions: forward funding education, embracing an education head tax, agreeing to tax the Oil industry, and annually pegging the Base Student Allocation to rates of inflation. HB 236 is a measure I support, but it does not go far enough.

Anchorage educators and families simply cannot bear the burdens of flat funding any more. I will actively hold my legislators--Senator Revak and Rep. Gillis--and every other legislator accountable for providing the funds necessary to adequately and equitably educate our children.

Kelly Lessens

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99507

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Cherime MacFarlane <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:22 AM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** public media

It is a lifeline for those in rural areas. As a prior resident of the Copper Basin, I know how important Public Media is to Alaskans.

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**From:** Sue Lukens <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:19 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** public tv

Please fund public tv in Alaska. The learning programs for children are so important in Alaska where other resources are not readily available. The native news programs are also important for our state. It is even more necessary to have these resources in Alaska because our people don't always have access to other resources. sue lukens - Alaska resident for almost 50 years.

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**From:** Christy McMurren <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:11 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Media support

I'm writing in support of full funding for Alaska Public Media. I am also a contributing member of Ak Public Media, so I'm willing to pay a portion, too.

1. Creates a virtual statewide early learning classroom featuring high-quality educational television content, such as Molly of Denali, In My Family, Sesame Street, and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.
2. Connects, informs, and encourages all Alaskans to engage in civil conversations and participate in the unique civic and cultural activities of our great state.
3. Distributes important news and cultural content like National Native News, Native America Calling and Indigefi.
4. Provides culturally relevant news/talk and entertainment programming to underserved Alaska Natives, which helps connect underserved rural communities by sharing a variety of programming that keeps them connected, engaged, and informed.
5. Allows public Radio and TV stations to replace aging broadcast equipment while securing the only statewide communications infrastructure that provides potentially life-saving EAS and AWARN alerts, news, and information.

Sincerely,  
Christy McMurren  
Anchorage, AK

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:04 AM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: Comments on Operating Budget

Feb 20, 2020

To the House Finance Committee:

My name is Julie Hursey and I live in Petersburg, Alaska. Thanks for an opportunity to express my deep concern about the damage being done to the economy of my community and my personal family income by the lack of ferry service.

The Alaska Marine Highway serves many needs in Southeast Alaska. It is a corridor for transporting people and food and materials. We use it to get to larger towns for medical, for shopping, for sports. But my main concern is that it is an economic driver for my town.

My husband and I have a charter business in town and 80% of our customers arrive in town on the ferry. These are independent travelers who go from town to town, staying in accommodations, shopping, eating in restaurants and booking charters like ours. They support Main Street businesses and charter companies as well.

This is the season we get bookings. Our bookings are drastically reduced this year because people say they "can't make plans without a ferry schedule" so they are not booking. We lost a reservation worth \$2500 on Saturday for that very reason when a family cancelled their trip due to inability to book a ferry reservation.

Local travel agent Dave Berg reports reduced bookings himself, and as he put it, that money just goes to the big cruise ships. Independent travelers leave more money in towns like Petersburg. That income stream is drying up now.

I am not asking for a handout. I just want to be able to make a living. The ferries are a lifeline for many reasons here in southeast Alaska. Restore funding to the Marine Highway System this session.

Thank you.

Julie Hursey

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**From:** Mim McConnell <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:00 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** full funding for public radio and television

Dear AK House Finance Committee Members,

I am writing in support of full funding for public radio and television. I have lived remotely in our great state and in small towns. Both types of communities are what you will find the most of in Alaska. The programming for both radio and TV are essential parts of our rural day-to-day lives and deserve full funding.

I contribute financially to both Alaska Public Media and Coast Alaska because I depend on their services. But the State of Alaska government also benefits from these services by having an educated, informed public and should help bear the cost of these entities.

Thank you for your careful consideration and support.



Mim McConnell

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Shawn Roberts <[REDACTED]@alaskan.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 8:50 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** PBS funding

Please restore full funding for public radio and television. As an individual who lived in the bush for 20 years I can't stress the importance of having access to up to date news, local messages, quality entertainment, and a connection to nearby villages. In a tent 60 miles from the nearest human, hearing Your nightly "partner" is a necessary treat.

Thanks,  
Shawn Roberts  
Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Malena Marvin <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 8:41 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Please restore full funding for AMHS - Ferries move Alaska!

Hello,

As a constituent from Petersburg, I support full funding for our ferries and for our public broadcasting stations. Both of these community-based services are lifelines that keep our ports connected to the world, our students active and educated, and our goods and services advertised and moving.

This is not a question of scarcity, but one of morals - will we use our collective resources to further reward oil companies for already profitable operations? Or will we invest in the businesses, young people, and jobs that keep Alaska vibrant and alive?

Please adjust this year's operating budget to restore FULL funding for ferries. After all, as we now know, even with the relatively reduced service in FY 2019, fares accounted for a higher percentage of operating budget on ferries than tolls did for highways. This is a no brainer.

Thank you  
Malena marvin

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Malena Marvin  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Sheree Warner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 8:32 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Media

Sirs and Madams,

I am a born Alaskan, nearly 65 years and I remember when PBS came to Alaska. I believe I was in 9th grade. I have been an avid watcher and supporter since. PBS brings information, education and experiences that otherwise would not be obtainable. Alaska can feel isolating, PBS keeps us connected. It is healthy TV programming. In my younger years I worked with under income children (Headstart). PBS programming is

essential to their education and well being. As you know Alaska is of small population with very unique needs. PBS fulfills essential needs.

Please fully fund Public Media.

Thank you.

Sheree Warner Nyren

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From: tmhkrd <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:50 AM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: request for full funding of ALaska public radio and television

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

As i am out of Alaska this week and unable to attend your Hearing this Friday, February 21st, i want to ensure that my voice is heard on this important subject -

Please support this opportunity for Alaska Public media to receive full-funding from the State, to solidify the quality programming for Alaska Public Media.

In such a broad geographic area as ours, we have come to rely on the services and broadcasts they are able to put on the air. They help make our Alaska experience great!

Gary Waltenbaugh  
Veteran  
Homer, AK Resident

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**From:** Joclyn Reilly <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:26 AM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**Cc:** Sen. Joshua Revak <Sen.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov>; Rep. Laddie Shaw <Rep.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Please fully fund public radio

Alaska Public Media put out amazing products (TV, Radio, etc) with a small budget. This service is free for all Alaskans, and needs to stay that way. I care about the programs and my kids enjoy the children's shows. We donate monthly, but they can't survive on personal donations alone. Please fully fund public radio and TV.

Joclyn Reilly  
Anchorage, Alaska  
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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:10 AM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Funding for public broadcasting

I support public broadcasting and encourage full funding and increased funding if possible. I consider PBS part of a free press and a needed alternative to the 'for profit' broadcasting channels. Removing or defunding it would be akin to censorship seen in autocratic political systems.

PBS is valuable for these reasons:

1. Creates a virtual statewide early learning classroom featuring high-quality educational television content.
2. Connects, informs, and encourages all Alaskans to engage in civil conversations and participate in the unique civic and cultural activities of our great state.
3. Distributes important news and cultural content like National Native News, Native America Calling and Indigefi.
4. Provides culturally relevant news/talk and entertainment programming to underserved Alaska Natives, which helps connect underserved rural communities by sharing a variety of programming that keeps them connected, engaged, and informed.
5. Allows public Radio and TV stations to replace aging broadcast equipment while securing the only statewide communications infrastructure that provides potentially life-saving EAS and AWARN alerts, news, and information.

Karen P. Lee  
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99507

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**From:** Debra Dailey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:47 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Funding for Public Radio

I am writing to urge you to fully fund Public Radio which is a backbone staple of unifying the multi cultural diversity of our Great State. With so little infrastructure to weave us together, this is one way we can bridge those gaps between ethnic groups, and create understanding and compassion...that it can assist us all coming together on united fronts.

I support the following and ask you consider funding the following steps.

1. Creates a virtual statewide early learning classroom featuring high-quality educational television content, such as Molly of Denali, In My Family, Sesame Street, and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.
2. Connects, informs, and encourages all Alaskans to engage in civil conversations and participate in the unique civic and cultural activities of our great state.
3. Distributes important news and cultural content like National Native News, Native America Calling and Indigefi.
4. Provides culturally relevant news/talk and entertainment programming to underserved Alaska Natives, which helps connect underserved rural communities by sharing a variety of programming that keeps them connected, engaged, and informed.
5. Allows public Radio and TV stations to replace aging broadcast equipment while securing the only statewide communications infrastructure that provides potentially life-saving EAS and AWARN alerts, news, and information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debra Dailey  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99502

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:47 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Media

I support full funding for Alaska Public Media. This is very important to me, especially in these times of intolerance being supported at the highest level of our government.

Sincerely, Michael O'Connor

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**From:** James Ruppert <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:40 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget

The years of budget cuts to the University of Alaska have had devastating effects on its ability to maintain and grow quality programs. The State of Alaska's economy has suffered, especially in the Fairbanks area. I urge you to restore the cuts.

Yours,  
James Ruppert  
Fairbanks, AK

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**From:** Jean Ayers <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 5:35 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** AK Public Media

I urge all legislators to fully support Alaska Public Media and Koahnic Broadcasting Corporation. These stations deliver much-needed, high quality information to the public daily.

From broad-based inspirational and educational programs such as *Nova*, *Sesame Street* or Ken Burns documentaries to Alaska-specific or culturally relevant programs such as *Line 1*, *Your Health Connection* or *Indigifi*, these stations provide a bridge to keeping us all better informed.

When living in rural Alaska, public media was often the sole lifeline to critical information over the air. Although other options exist now that I live in "urban" Alaska, public media is still my go-to source for accurate, unbiased, up-to-date information.

Your continued support is appreciated!  
Jean Ayers

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**From:** Donna Delancey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 3:58 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** PBS

Please continue funding for public radio and TV stations.

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**From:** Richard Sepersky <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 3:33 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** RESTORE ALASKA MEDIA FUNDING

I have been a resident of Alaska for over 2 decades and want legislators to know how important a part of Alaska life the public funding of Alaska Media is to its residents.

I support the restoration of at least a substantial portion of the funding that was eliminated in full last year, EVEN if that means a reduction on my PFD.

Thanks  
Richard Sepersky

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**From:** Florence Carnahan <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 3:08 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Funding for public radio and TV

We no longer live in Alaska but we subscribe to Alaska Public Radio and Television.

We lived in Utkeagvik (Barrow at that time) from 1981-1984. It was a an important contact to national, statewide and local news.

When we moved to Anchorage we watched and listened there, too. Again, it was an important contact to national, statewide and local news.

Now, living in upstate NY we listen, not only to our local NPR station but we enjoy listening to AK Public Radio. We have family and friends In Anchorage and by "streaming" the Anchorage station we can listen to what they are listening to and we can follow news that we wouldn't get Otherwise because Alaskan news just doesn't get to the lower 48. When an important story appears we share the AK Digest stories with friends who live across the country.

Funding for Alaska Public Radio and TV is important to more people than you probably realize! Don't cut it from the budget - not one bit!

Florence and John Carnahan  
[REDACTED]  
Schenectady, NY 12309

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From: Bruce Van Dusen <[REDACTED]@alaska.net>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 11:23 AM  
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
Subject: From Polaris House

Greetings to Our Esteemed Leaders of the House Finance Committee,

I live and work in Juneau Alaska. I am the Executive Director of Polaris House. Polaris House is an accredited clubhouse with Clubhouse International, Inc. Our organization is over 400 member clubhouses in more than 27 countries in the world. Polaris House is the only accredited clubhouse in Alaska. Polaris House operates on the Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Clubhouse Model. This means there is more than enough research to validate the processes we use to achieve expected outcomes. We serve adults ages 18 and older. The clubhouse member is a person with lived experience in receiving mental health care at some point in their lifetime. We also serve persons who have addiction; as well as, a mental health condition. Primarily, we serve persons diagnosed with any mental health condition identified in the DSM-V.

Our outcomes benefit the entire community. We provide a safe and nurturing environment that is available seven days each week. Just as important we work to ensure each member has safe and affordable housing. We prevent and end homelessness. This helps everyone. It reduces dollars needed for public services that would be needed if we were not housing people. We house 95% of our membership during any Fiscal Year quarter.

We provide three levels of employment services. Decades of research shows us employment is the number one best therapy for mental health recovery. In addition to this employment provides self-worth and purpose. We also rely on members to complete the day to day work of the clubhouse business. We can't do business without the members. This too provides purpose and sense of community that is other wise absent. I think that employment has been on everyone's radar for sometime, including Governor Dunleavy. We maintain 22 member employed during any Fiscal Year quarter. Our member earn approximately \$500,000.00 annually. These earnings go back to the community to pay rent, and to buy goods and services.

We ensure each member has access to community education opportunities. We use education as a means to higher paying, and better jobs. This too benefits all of Juneau, and other communities as our members move around the State. We have supported members who have graduated from UAS.

One source of funding is the Community Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery grants, (CBHTR). These are funds administered by DHSS Division of Behavioral Health. These funds ensure we are reducing the need for emergency room services by helping people at home, in the community. The support we give keeps people from escalating into situations that require inpatient mental health unit admissions at Bartlett Hospital. Our work has significantly decreased the need for law enforcement interventions for this population. When I arrived in Juneau to take this job with Polaris House in August of 2013, law enforcement officers were called as much as two to three times per week. During calendar year 2019 Juneau Police Department officers were called two times to Polaris House. Our proven method of care works.

We partner with all other behavioral health providers in Juneau. Our work reaches other parts of the State as well. Hopefully, we can find ways to bring the clubhouse model to all of Alaska. Please work to see that the CBHTR grants are not cut. Ideally, we could be funded at levels similar to FY16. We are on a very tight budget. For example: we need a new washing machine, but can't afford it. Right now staff are doing laundry at their homes.

We provide needed supports for person seeking public aid, government assistance, social security claims, housing subsidies, and any and all supports that are needed. We help by finding doctors, accessing services and promote good health through referrals to other providers.

We have robust social programs. We are open on all holidays. We provide a safe haven on weekends. And, we build a sense of community through many recreational activities.


I have had schizophrenia for almost 50 years. I know recovery is possible. I know how much it means to someone to have opportunity.




I am grateful to you for your efforts and work. I hope that you can find ways to support us as we continue to make a difference in the lives of a vulnerable population that is under-represented.

Sincerely,

Bruce Van Dusen  
Executive Director  
Polaris House, Inc.  
434 W Willoughby Av  
Juneau, AK 99801



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**From:**   
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:13 AM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support Alaska Public Media

Dear House Finance Committee members:

Please fully fund Alaska Public Broadcasting.

In this era of misinformation, it is more important than ever to have available news media with a neutral platform for providing trustworthy news. Alaska Public Broadcasting offers that critical information resource. The majority of people do support public broadcasting; our representatives in the state legislature should do likewise. This should not be a political decision. It should be a decision based on what is best for the people, with a public service that delivers the most bang for our public dollars.

I listen to Alaska Public Broadcasting news every day on my way to work and again on my way home. During those half hours, I receive unbiased news. I am grateful for that opportunity, because I know unbiased news is rare, and valuable.

In an effort to find some semblance of balance in the news, I have listened to both right-leaning and left-leaning broadcast news... hoping that the biases would cancel each other, and filter down to the actual facts. It doesn't happen that way. Even the facts are up to the interpretation of political and social influence. There appear to be few, if any, commercially-funded outlets that offer news we can trust.

Because it is funded by the people, Alaska Public Media strives to offer reporting with integrity, avoiding the name-calling and obvious slants. It MUST stick to the facts and offer the many sides to every story, or risk alienating the audience (us!).

Aside from unbiased news, APB produces stories, features and educational programs that bring our communities closer together. They promote understanding through educational (and entertaining) storytelling that is uniquely Alaskan. This, too, is more important than ever. We live in an era and environment of sound-bites often aimed to divide and damage. APB's programming benefit Alaska's community with content that focuses on shared concerns and joys, where we can find common ground (and learning) as a society.

Because Alaska PUBLIC Broadcasting is funded by the people, it is not beholden to special interests or specific politics. This funding dynamic is important to our ability to trust this source. Funding by the people should continue through individual donations, as well as through our representative state government budget. Please fully fund Alaska Public Broadcasting.

Thank you.

Stephenie Wheeler

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99507

[REDACTED]

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**From:** karen jensen <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 5:58 PM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** No pfd

As a thirty year Alaskan, heavily socially invested in my community of Fairbanks, I work hard to help make this a good place to live. In the last year especially, I've watched many good people leave, and community resources decline. I don't need a PFD. I certainly don't need multiple years of back handouts from the government. I need the government to work to fund the services I care about, those that make it a better place to live. Education, libraries, swimming pools, soccer fields, state parks, social services to help the needy and the addicted, and enough police to help us stay safe. Not endless government growth, but enough in infrastructure to preserve our way of life as a civilized place, not an impoverished one.

No handouts. Use the money to build a livable society. Raise income taxes to support the things we care about.

Thank you,  
Karen Jensen

[REDACTED]

, Fairbanks

My opinion is mine alone and does not reflect my employer, or any special interest group.

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**From:** Judith Lund <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:41 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Alaska Public Media support

In a State as large and disbursed as Alaska the public broadcasts are an important component for staying informed and connected. Private enterprise can't serve this function since the profits aren't sufficient. I urge you to fund this service in full.

Thank you for this opportunity to weigh in.

Judith Lund

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**From:** Larri Spengler <[REDACTED]@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:41 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** importance of public radio and television

Greetings:

I urge full funding for public radio and television. These are not discretionary items in Alaska —in many places they are the only way for people to learn what is going on locally, statewide, and even nationally.

Thank you.

Larri Irene Spengler

[REDACTED]  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** peter stern <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:40 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** road maintenance funding

hello:

In developing the budget for this coming year, I want to urge you to increase the funding for DOT road maintenance that was cut in previous years. I live in the interior and have seen the degradation of winter maintenance.

The state is encouraging the development of winter tourism. Many of those tourists are pedestrians that are being faced with sidewalks and ped paths that are being poorly maintained due to the cuts. I have seen families trying to walk on the narrow shoulders of major roadways which is entirely unsafe.

Trying to be a pedestrian in the winter is becoming much harder. I have also seen fat bike riders at times having to carry their bikes due to poor path conditions.

I communicate with the DOT road people and they are struggling to handle snow events that have been coming in close series. The roads are given top priority which leaves paths and sidewalks in poor condition for long periods of time. Access to bus stops, both school and transit, have also been impacted by this maintenance struggle.

DOT needs sufficient funding to deal with winter maintenance to keep drivers, cyclists and pedestrians safe. The current budgetary level is too low and needs to be increased.

Thank you,

peter

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**From:** Nancy Crowden <[REDACTED]@msn.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:36 PM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Public Radio

You need to know how IMPORTANT NPR is to rural Alaskans.

During the McKinley Fire I didn't evacuate. The ONLY reliable updates I got were on KTNA Talkeetna.

I volunteer at KNBA and KTNA.

The loss of funding has hurt.

STOP!!!

Fully fund Alaska Public Broadcasting.

Nancy Crowden

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Willow, Alaska 99688

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Frank Chythlook <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:30 PM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Funding Public Broadcasting is important

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am honored to be part of the process in giving my opinion on the matter of funding public broadcasting. In full disclosure, right now, my sole income comes from a job at KUAC in Fairbanks, which is a radio and TV station that reaches all across the Interior, and in Nome. But please do not misunderstand my motives, while I certainly have a vested interest in keeping radio and TV alive for the thousands of listeners, I say rather it is my passion and belief in this mission, the public good that makes me work for public radio and TV. I have tried other careers, some of which are far more lucrative, but I keep returning to this field because of the sense of community and neighborhood that it inspires in listeners and viewers.

I believe this, I believe in the philosophy of Carol Schatz, Mel Sather, Augie Hiebert, Senator Ted Stevens, Patty Harpel - men and women of substance who believed that Alaska was stronger together through public broadcasting, and that we should not be pulled apart by Outside interests that seek to profit off our home.

If you are unfamiliar with the history of these sourdoughs, these broadcasting pioneers, I encourage you to learn about them. They were not just public broadcasting nerds like myself, but commercial TV and radio people who knew that Alaska is too vast, and our populations too spread out to not help one another. There truly is more pie for everyone here, and because of public broadcasting's mission, it doesn't compete in the same way with commercial radio and TV, and truly both can and have been flourishing together in Alaska.

If I can be so bold, I will point out that it was a commercial interest, run by Sourdough Broadcasting, that first brought **Mister Roger's Neighborhood** to Anchorage. Earlier I mentioned Patty Harpel, who was the woman in charge at KIMO at the time.

Certainly she turned a tidy profit, allowing her to build a masterpiece of a home featured in Time Magazine at the time, but you know she recognized quality programming from PBS when she saw it.

I should also point out that many of the stations, both non-profit and commercial, were built and kept running by some of the same talented engineers - Mel Sather and Augie Heibert among them, whether for profit or non-profit, keeping the Alaskan spirit of neighborly help alive. Who would you call if your transmitter for your religious station was out of tune? You can bet it was the same guy that would be fixing the tuners at the commercial station broadcasting Days of Our Lives, and also making sure Car Talk was heard Sunday mornings. Broadcast engineers are a special breed of folk, who relish a challenge of building this infrastructure in our great state. It is my opinion that shutting down public broadcasting would serve a killing blow to all broadcasting in Alaska, by sending talented engineers away to more friendly territories, states and countries.

Some of the folks involved in Public Broadcasting are the most conservative people I know, but they realize this ecosystem must be kept alive to make sure our neighborly values of being Alaskan is also kept alive. They may not agree with the content on any given station, but realizing that the

marketplace of ideas is present when broadcasting is owned and operated by Alaskans is important to them.

It is in this spirit that I ask you to fully fund public broadcasting in Alaska. We know Outside interests will be likely to see a small market of under a million people and not want to invest in EAS and AWARN alert systems, because where is the profit in that, when you are based in Georgia or Florida or some other sun-soaked place that doesn't rely on radio as an emergency infrastructure as we do here in our cold winters and windy summers.

Going back to my personal story, it has taken 20 years of hard work to get where I am, in a manager position at KUAC. Does that mean I am biased toward this industry? Yes, it means I value Alaskan neighbors and community more than partisan politics. I value it enough to be committed to a career in this field, and that commitment extends to being part of the community that also believes in public broadcasting. I hope you can see the value in it.

Thank you,

Frank Chythlook

Fairbanks, Alaska

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**From:** Dave Musgrave <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:29 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Alaska Public Media and Koahnic Broadcasting

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,  
Today I am at the school in Koyukuk as part of a program to teach village kids to ski. On the radio I hear KOYU, which is the local NPR station here.

Without this import resource, many in Alaska served by Alaska Public Media and Kohanic Broadcasting would have not have the local and culturally relevant programs that they provide.

I support full funding for them.

David Musgrave  
[REDACTED] Palmer, AK 99645

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**From:** Shannon Thompson <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:28 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter of support

Good evening, I'm writing tonight to express my support for full funding for public broadcasting.

Public broadcasting provides so many irreplaceable and important services for our citizens. It connects, informs and encourages all Alaskans to engage in civil conversations and participate in unique civic and cultural activities of our great state. It provides culturally relevant news/talk and entertainment programming to underserved Alaskan Natives, which helps connect rural communities by sharing a variety of programming that keeps them connected, engaged, and informed.

Finally, public broadcasting allows public radio and TV stations to replace aging broadcast equipment while securing the only statewide communications infrastructure that provides potentially life-saving EAS and AWARN alerts, news and information.

Thank you, I appreciate your time,  
Miss Shannon L. Thompson

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From: Andy Cizek <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:24 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: DON'T SPEND OUR PFD ON SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Hello to everyone including senators and representatives of Alaska.

Please stop trying to invent ways to spend the money earmarked for the people of the state of Alaska by the Alaska statutes and the constitution, known as the pfd on special interest groups which only benefit a smaller percentage of Alaskans. Bills such as HCR13 is a slap in the face to every Alaskan who is eligible for a pfd and wants to spend their money for purposes that they choose to spend it on be it food, utilities, gasoline, rent, college education or on the AMHS or whatever they choose. The pfd is by far the most fair way of distributing money to Alaskans who qualify and then can equally spend their money as they choose. STOP THE NONSENSE as well as the uncontrolled spending and do your job and do it well so it benefits all Alaskans equally. Approximately 60% of the state budget goes to education (k-12 and UAA) and DHSS. Yes you read that right! 60%. That doesn't include the additional taxes from the boroughs mainly via property taxes that in the Kenai Peninsula add up to 69-72% additional from the general fund that goes to schools as well. By the way we also rate number 50 out of 50 states for the worst results. Please don't trust me on these figures Look them up yourselves and verify it so you can be upset as well. Support the teachers and classrooms but not mid level

management or administration anymore. I think you politicians can see where cuts need to be made so do your job and support the governor in reducing this overinflated budget and stop stealing the pfd until it's gone and then you'll want exuberant taxes. Operate according to the law for a change. You may find it works quite well. To all the people who vote. Pay special attention to who is stealing your money and vote them out of office this November. I'd like to add a very special thank you to the legislators who are standing firmly for life as well as for the overall people of Alaska who voted governor Dunleavy into office by a 2-1 margin. Until we vote!!! Keep a sharp eye on your politicians and hold them accountable and let them know where you stand on these various topics directly affecting you. Get involved and stay involved!!! Till next time.

Keep looking up!!!!

Andy

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**From:** carrie klein <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 8:22 PM  
**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Media Funding

Members of the Finance Committee,

Please reinstate funding for public radio and television throughout our state. I understand we are no longer in the era of RATNET when there was nothing else on the airwaves. Quite the contrary, For many of us the media menu is infinite. For some, cable or internet is financially out of reach or simply not available. Keeping media readily available in most corners of our state is a big reason to continue public support. It was a big deal to me when I was traveling in state during the 2019 earthquake and could get reliable information from public radio about conditions around my home in South-Central .

I am one of those with bottomless media options. But I chose to raise my kid with public television rather than Nickelodeon and I spend a lot of time with public radio. I appreciate the quality and the uniquely Alaskan perspective I don't get any where else. National Native News gives me a glimpse into a segment of Alaskan culture that would be otherwise invisible. Statewide news dials me in to the very different happenings in Southeast, Arctic and the Bush. It's invaluable, for example, to hear the impact of line items in the state budget on fellow Alaskans. It is a great way to allow yourself a few minutes in their shoes: how else would I get the message that ferries mean as much to some Alaskans as roads mean to me? Who else broadcasts the debates when you ran for your legislative seats? I think public media is a public safety matter, a valuable resource of reliable information and a unifying force for Alaskans.

I support public media with donations. That kind of public support is great and gives people ownership and a sense of community, put state funding is, to some donors, a Good Housekeeping seal of



approval. The Federal government is more willing to pitch in where there is local government support as are corporate and nonprofit donors. So Alaska's relatively small input becomes multiplied; please don't interrupt the revenue stream that follows State support.

I get that this small line item isn't as critical as others in the budget. But it is a relatively small amount that gets multiplied and makes a big impact statewide. Public radio and TV are two of the great things about living here and brings our state a little closer together,

Thank you for your consideration,

Carrie Klein  
Palmer AK

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**From:** Michael Still <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 8:20 PM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Support Public Education

As an Alaskan I support public education and hope that all of the lawmakers do too. Politicians often cite budget as the reason for cutting education funding but forget about the long term financial benefits of higher educated Alaskans. Educated Alaskans are more employed create and small businesses boosting our economy through new income and other tax revenue. Not to mention educated Alaskans are less likely to end up in jail or cause problems that our police need to deal with. That means that educated Alaskans save us money and contribute more tax revenue in the long run.

Regards,  
Mike Still  
Travel Blogger, Photographer, Teacher

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**From:** F LaChapelle <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 8:02 PM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Testimony for Funding Public radio and Television

**Dear committee members:**

**We encourage you to fully fund public media. We are 25-year supporters ourselves because we value the role public media plays in our communities. We believe in a civil and informed society and public media plays a vital role in creating and enabling a community of informed citizens. Alaska needs forces that bring our citizens together-few things do that better than public media.**

**If you need to justify your support with line-items, you can utilize the following details that delineate precisely how public media improves our lives.**

1. Creates a virtual statewide early learning classroom featuring high-quality educational television content, such as Molly of Denali, In My Family, Sesame Street, and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.
2. Connects, informs, and encourages all Alaskans to engage in civil conversations and participate in the unique civic and cultural activities of our great state.
3. Distributes important news and cultural content like National Native News, Native America Calling and Indigefi.
4. Provides culturally relevant news/talk and entertainment programming to underserved Alaska Natives, which helps connect underserved rural communities by sharing a variety of programming that keeps them connected, engaged, and informed.
5. Allows public Radio and TV stations to replace aging broadcast equipment while securing the only statewide communications infrastructure that provides potentially life-saving EAS and AWARN alerts, news, and information.

Sincerely,

Ravnit and Francis LaChapelle

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**From:** jen w <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:46 PM

**To:** House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

**Subject:** Please support public TV and radio!!!

Whoever is reading this,

Please know that you are a hero, and that Americans trust and support you, and appreciate you every day, even though you may not hear about it, even though we might not remember that ourselves most of the time. You are in a place with lots of responsibility because of the support that voters back you with.

My message to you is this: please help give a boost to something that reminds us all that we matter, that we live in a beautiful world, and that someone is here to teach us how to live in the world side by side to all the things and people that/who may scare us at first. Something that does those things without a corporate agenda, sponsored by same 3 companies that run the world, trying to make more \$\$\$ from the population than they put in. That's what we're all wary of these days, and I think it'd be great to keep our public programming as independent of that as possible.

I grew up and learned to speak, count, and write with PBS shows when my parents couldn't teach me. I'm not the only one and thank you for allowing it to continue.  
Thank you.

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