



Senator Bert Stedman
State Capitol, Room 30
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
State Capitol, Room 426
Juneau, Alaska 99801

February 10, 2016

Senator Stedman and Representative Kreiss-Tomkins:

The Local Emergency Planning Committee for the Petersburg Borough assists in preparing for emergencies by maintaining an Emergency Operations Plan.

The committee is made up of local officials; police, fire, public health professionals; and representatives from the community and the media.

KFSK public radio is the only 24-hour media service in the Petersburg Borough and its signal reaches the entire population. In the event of an emergency, KFSK plays a vital role in the dissemination of information from first responders and officials involved in the management of the emergency response.

As we are all aware, the State of Alaska is facing a fiscal crisis resulting in difficult budget decisions. KFSK expected, and indeed realized, a deep cut to its state operating grant in FY16.

The Petersburg Local Emergency Planning Committee needs KFSK to remain strong in order to continue to serve its mission to keep Borough residents informed. In the event of an emergency, it is the only media source that citizens can rely upon to receive life-saving and time-sensitive information that is a necessity in emergency situations.

We urge you to support public broadcasting by keeping the reduction of state funding for public radio stations to a minimum. Large cuts to small radio stations could dismantle the emergency response network that is vital to keeping Alaskans safe during emergencies.

Sincerely,

Sandra K. Dixon

Petersburg Fire/EMS Director
Local Emergency Planning Committee Chair

Petersburg Borough

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