

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: Public radio funding
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 2:14:45 PM

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

From: Kristeen [<mailto:awildfish@hughes.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:46 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public radio funding

I am writing you in support of public radio funding.

My husband and I have lived in Yakutat for 45 years and it can be challenging to function in the 21st century from this very remote location.

Our community is economically depressed and struggling already. Many have left to find employment elsewhere. Though our public radio station covers a wide area and its support is strong, there is no deep well of local financial support that can replace what the state and federal government provide. It is a reliable source of local, state and national news, and more importantly---essential emergency information. It's the first place we turn during times of earthquake or tsunami alerts. There is no commercial radio station that can step in and fill the void.

Eliminating all state funding affects the ability of the station to receive matching federal help. The current budget proposal could very likely end the ability of our station to function at all.

Thank you for your efforts to find a budget that will work for the state in the dire circumstances it is in. I appreciate the difficult position the legislature is in, but please, don't eliminate all funding for public broadcasting in Alaska. It is much too important to rural Alaska.

Kris Widdows
Yakutat, AK. 99689