

From: [Maria Byford](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Public Radio Funding--Please at least keep the House Proposed 23% cut
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 11:02:00 AM

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to urge you to consider the important job of public radio in the communities of Alaska as you decide on the percentage budget to be enacted.

Our local Wrangell radio station and other small rural stations throughout Alaska could not continue to provide the vital functions they perform.

Unlike public radio in most parts of the country, **in Alaska it is an important and major life line of communication for those of us living in remote areas without cell phone coverage, VHS, or satellite coverage. Even living in the town of Wrangell, it is the major communication source for all emergency messages, utility breakdowns, outages, etc., local and state news.**

It is also the way that those living in town can get messages to people in the outlying areas. It is a crucial communication aspect of life in rural Alaska.

Since Alaska Public Radio stations work together with presenting the local and state news, the urban service providers need to be kept strong, too.

I understand that there is hard work this year to achieve a balanced budget.

My request is that cuts made to Public Radio are at a level that will enable them to continue the vital communication role they play.

The 23% cut that the House proposed would at least keep the stations open.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria Byford