

From: [Debra Call](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support for public radio - KNBA
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:38:15 AM

TO:

Senator Pete Kelly, Co-Chair

Senator Anna MacKinnon, Co-Chair

Senator Peter Micciche

Senator Click Bishop

Senator Mike Dunleavy

Senator Lyman Hoffman

Senator Donald Olson

FROM: Debra Call, community member, Director of Corporate Administration for Tyonek Native Corporation and Board member & Treasurer, Koahnic Broadcast Corporation

SUBJ: \$135,000 in funding is needed for public broadcasting

I hoped to testify at the Anchorage LIO at 9 AM – on Tuesday, 3/31, however, I have a conflicting appointment. I am sending you this email instead.

I appreciate the difficult financial situation that Alaska is facing and your leadership efforts to resolve a budget deficit. I am a lifelong Alaskan who has lived through the rise and fall of our economy based on oil. I strongly support education and public radio as the priorities to create a healthy community and economy. Education and public radio are vehicles to keep our community learning and involved. In Alaska it is so easy to perceive ourselves as “separate” from the rest of the world. As technology creates a smaller world for all; it is critically important to keep education and communication open and available – particularly as we look at a global economy. As the budget squeezes down programs – it is critically important to set priorities of keeping our people educated and informed.

Alaska is resource rich with a small population. We have an opportunity to educate our

people to build a diversified our economy beyond oil; and with the investment in public radio we get the current economic news of the world. KNBA particularly focuses on the Native affairs – in Anchorage which is 5th largest city in the US with the large population of Native Americans. Our developable resources of natural gas, oil, mining, and fishing that have built our economy; are in rural Alaska, the home to a majority of the Alaska Natives – Yupik, Inupiaq, Athabascan, Dena’ina, Tlingit, and Alutiqq peoples. We learn about current Native affairs and activities through public radio and how we can work together to build a solid economy with jobs for all in a resource rich state.

KNBA is the producer of Native America Calling, National Native News and broadcasts the annual Alaska Federation of Natives Convention. Please invest the \$135,000 for the continuation of quality programs that keep us learning about and listening to each other as we work together developing the potential of Alaska’s future. It’s a good investment with the reward of a better understanding of our state, our global economy and the issues/priorities of our people.

Thank you.

Debra Call

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Our Vision – “Building Our Future Together”

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