

**From:** [Angie Eldred](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Public radio in rural Alaska  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 10:10:03 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing to express my concern and request your support for continued funding of public radio in Alaska. While I understand the economic challenge that our state currently faces and the difficult decisions that must be made regarding allocation of available funds, I urge you to carefully consider the wisest use of the limited funds at the State's disposal.

Public radio is a critical service for rural Alaska communities. As a resident of the community of Wrangell I rely on our community radio station to stay abreast of national, local and regional news and keep informed of issues that impact my community, family, and livelihood. I rely on our community public radio station for important emergency information including weather alerts, power outages, and community safety information. I rely on our community public radio station to keep connected with and engaged in community events. In a uniquely rural and isolating landscape such as Southeast Alaska, it is vitally important to maintain the services provided by community public radio to keep community members informed and connected.

If the current proposed budget cut of 100% becomes a reality, our rural public radio stations will be effectively shut down. In small towns such as Wrangell and Petersburg, membership support alone does not provide enough funding to maintain the functioning level of service currently provided by our community public radio stations. A 100% cut in funding for public radio in Wrangell would mean the loss of KSTK, the loss of jobs, and the loss of all the vital services public radio provides in our small rural community. While I understand the need for fiscal conservancy at this time, a 100% cut across the board for public radio in Alaska is disproportionate, and could not be sustained by many community public radio stations.

With this magnitude of cut, Wrangell would lose our community's Emergency Alert System. KSTK is Wrangell's LP1, or Local Primary that provides

Wrangell with the Emergency Alert System that lets citizens what to do in the event of an emergency. This is an incredibly important service, especially for those community residents who live out of cell phone range on our small island.

I urge you to please consider the importance of public radio and the critical services it provides to our state's unique rural communities as you make decisions regarding our state budget. The House currently proposes a 23% cut to public radio funding. With this manageable size of a cut in funding KSTK and other small rural public stations can scale back in programming considerably to provide only the minimum in vital community services and avoid staff layoffs. Please consider exploring this same magnitude of cut so as not to cripple public radio service in rural Southeast Alaska, where it is so very important.

I recognize you do not face an easy task, and thank you for your time and consideration of supporting public radio in Alaska

Sincerely,

Angie Eldred

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