

**From:** [CATHERINE HIEBERT](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Funding for Public TV/Radio/ARCS/APBC  
**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2015 3:15:32 PM

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Please see below - as sent to the Senate Administration Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee.

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From: hiebertc@msn.com  
To: sen.mike.dunleavy@akleg.gov; sen.dennis.egan@akleg.gov; sen.bill.stoltze@akleg.gov; sen.anna.mackinnon@akleg.gov  
Subject: Funding for Public TV/Radio/ARCS/APBC  
Date: Fri, 27 Mar 2015 14:47:25 -0800

MARCH 27, 2015

TO: Senate Administration Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee:

As a private citizen and resident of the State of Alaska, please accept the following testimony regarding the elimination of funding for Public TV/Radio/ARCS/APBC

\*This is Tsunami Preparedness Week, March 23-27, 2015.

\*TV and radio stations in the most likely affected areas of a tsunami just participated in the Live Code Tsunami Test on Wednesday, 3/25/15

\*Today, 3/27/15 is the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Good Friday Earthquake

\*Governor Walker was in Valdez during the earthquake. He provided a lengthy interview on KCAM-Glennallen last year (2014) as a part of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

\*Governor Walker declared flags to be lowered to half-staff today, 3/27/15 in honor of those lost in the earthquake.

\*(As a survivor of the Great Alaska Earthquake I am today wearing my Survivors sweatshirt and pin for my casual Friday attire.)

All of the above references the overall great importance that every one of our TV & Radio stations play in getting the message out during an emergency.

Without the rural public stations in some of the smallest of villages across Alaska, where would those residents be for information when electricity goes out in an emergency situation? Remember - the internet is accessible only on resources that have a reliable delivery of electricity - cell phones, iPads, etc. eventually run out of battery. Do you think the residents would risk charging their electronics using precious fuel resources from their pickup trucks? A couple of double-A batteries for a portable radio are a lot cheaper and in life threatening situations much more reliable. With that portable radio they are getting that information that no other source can reliably provide. And in a high number of these locations, that radio station, or TV station through the ARCS system are PUBLIC stations. These stations were established in some of these rural locations to serve the need of the people, as is the case with most broadcast stations - and no matter what technology exists - there will ALWAYS be a need.

Alaska, The Great Land, is a one-of-a-kind state - I know we can all agree on that. The highest priority are her PEOPLE. Keeping them informed and SAFE should always be a high priority of each and every one of us.

I humbly ask you to reconsider your actions, and restore funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cathy Hiebert

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