

**From:** [Celeste Kukahiko](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Public Radio Funding  
**Date:** Sunday, March 29, 2015 5:49:31 PM

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Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am senior at Unalaska City High School, the Youth Representative on the Unalaska Community Broadcasting Advisory Board, a volunteer DJ at KUCD Radio, and a fervent public radio supporter. I am writing to express my concern about the potential elimination of public radio funding. Please consider the value of Alaska's public radio stations when you finalize the operating budget for the upcoming year.

I understand that cuts to the budget are essential at this time, but eliminating public radio funding puts a lot of services in jeopardy! Here in Unalaska it represents a \$130,000 cut to our local radio station. There is no way that KUCB could maintain their current level of service without the support of the State of Alaska. This funding cut puts crucial services to youth at risk as well. I would like to make you aware of the ways that KUCB supports Unalaska's youth, and the ways that young people would be impacted by this cut.

As a daily part of their mission, KUCB Radio provides training to students at Unalaska City School District in audio and video production. Right now, teen DJs are on the air three days a week. They also have a strong youth internship program, and currently have a student learning journalism in the KUCB newsroom. KUCB staff broadcasts live coverage of our sports teams playing in other communities. In a town that's on the off-the-road system, and where plane tickets can cost upwards of \$1,000, this is an important service. KUCB also publicizes school fundraising events, which helps students reach their fundraising goals. All of these services are possible because KUCB has sufficient funding. If public radio funding is eliminated there will be serious reductions to local staff and the services that is so crucial and important to our community will go away.

Please prioritize public radio in the operating budget and maintain strong funding to this vital service.

Sincerely,

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