

From: [James Lagattuta](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: KIYU
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In June of 2012 I "retired" from IHS and took a position as a clinical child psychologist out here in Bush Alaska. My friends thought I was nuts ... maybe weird, but it's now my home - here in Galena. And when I found out I could get Public Radio as well as local coverage on our radio station, I felt "very" much at home, since I've listened to and contributed to Public Radio for many years when I lived on the Navajo Reservation. Even the flood of '13 didn't change my mind, because part of me felt very connected and secure in our village due to the presence of our radio station, KIYU. And when the flood created trauma and chaos, it provided a sense of continuity and, with that, hope.

It was and is our only connection to the rest of Alaska and the radio world out there through its broadcasting Public Radio programs and providing the villages with broadcasts of events that provide us with a sense of connection. The Athabaskan Hour provides us with cultural experiences focused on our Interior Alaska culture.

You in the road-connected areas of Alaska can drive where you wish to support your kids playing sports out of their local school area, but \$420/round trip to Fairbanks and whatever cost beyond is not possible. However, KIYU broadcasts these events and folks up and down river are glued to KIYU to hear how their village young ones are doing - they represent and bring pride to their family and village. As I said it's our only way of connecting. Nothing else is there for us to feel this daily connection. Unless you've lived in a remote village, you cannot understand the positive psychological impact this has for us.

You can receive full programming on multiple radios stations. For us it is "only" KIYU. You cut funds that curtail its programming and you then cut us off from the radio world "out there", including Native American programs from the Lower 48. Think of this when your kids ask to go to the movies, or a fast food place, or any number of things you take for granted. Oh, and when you complain about the price of your gas to drive them there, remember we pay \$7.95/gal.

Please don't forget those you don't see.

Thanks for your time,

Jim Lagattuta, PhD