

From: [Ethel Patkotak](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support Public Radio Broadcasting!
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 10:06:09 AM

Good Morning:

Please vote against any budget cuts for public radio broadcasting. Here on the North Slope, KBRW is the only radio station that serves communities—it is the only means by which people can listen to Borough Assembly, School Board, and various public meetings that are so important to the villagers that they warrant broadcast. Not all households have Internet access, either, so most rely on KBRW's news broadcasts and public notices of weather updates, rabies quarantines, and exigent circumstances.

Our radio station functions on a bare-bones budget; staffing is already at the most minimal, and the absence of one requires that others do double-duty. Our membership is as supportive as it can be, however, with the cost of living and unemployment so high in rural Alaska, KBRW relies heavily on its share of state funding.

We share resources however we can. We rely on volunteer techs whenever possible to make sure that our translators in the other villages continue to transmit. Budget cuts strain our budget and if more are made, we must consider cutting staff or programs that provide key information to our villagers.

Please support public broadcasting by voting against such drastic budget cuts!

Ethel A. Patkotak
Barrow, Alaska

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<http://www.fastmail.com> - Or how I learned to stop worrying and
love email again