



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _Senate Finance Committee
on ___SB27/HB72___ dated ___031815___.

Good morning,

I'm writing to you about the potential cuts to the stations that make up the Alaska Public Radio Network. While I absolutely understand the need to tighten your fiscal belts, the proposed cuts would be devastating to the system that your constituents rely on every day.

I have had the honor of working for three wonderful public radio stations in Alaska: KDLG in Dillingham, KBBI in Homer and KDLL in Kenai. I know firsthand how important these stations can be for the listeners. While in Dillingham, we were often the only form of communication fishermen and residents in remote villages had access to. In the time of an emergency, we were there to inform people about what to expect. When news would happen in their area or in the statehouse... they tuned in to us. During the Funny River Fire in Soldotna, listeners turned to KDLL for details, updates and the long-term impacts. This is VALUABLE local content. It is NECESSARY local content.

As you likely know, many of the stations around the state do not have businesses to go to for additional funds to support operations. We would rely on listeners' contributions, state funds and grants. Losing those important state dollars could be cutting down newsrooms from two people to one. Or wiping out a newsroom completely.

And it's not just the individual stations that will be hurt, I value Alaska News Nightly, which is produced in Anchorage by the Alaska Public Radio Network. It's clear to me that the State of Alaska has a strong and vibrant network of public radio stations, who work together on a daily basis to provide listeners across the state with the content that Alaskans rely on. Alaskans are hungry for information and these cuts would essentially be ripping information out of their hands.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. And I hope you make the right decision and reduce the potential cuts to public radio stations throughout the state.

Ariel Van Cleave

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