

March 27, 2015

Honorable Members of the Alaska State Senate Finance Committee,

(I/we) **am/are not in support** of a proposal passed late Thursday by a Senate subcommittee headed by Senator Mike Dunleavy to cut 100% of the FY 2016 state funding for Alaska's public broadcasting system.

Petersburg's **ONLY** local broadcasting company (radio or television), KFSK, is an invaluable lifeline for our community. The emergency broadcasting services (tsunami warnings, extreme weather warnings, power outages, etc.), local, Alaska, and national news, public service announcements, and community involvement and services, including a message service for those outlying residents that do not have phone service, will all be lost if this proposal is passed on the Senate floor. If State funding is cut completely on July 1, 2015, this would trigger an additional loss of \$125,000 in Federal grant funds.

To put this proposed cut into perspective for Petersburg, please consider the following:

KFSK's current annual operating budget is \$480,000. 100% of State funding equals \$137,000, which is 29% of KFSK's budget. Add the additional loss of \$125,000 Federal grant funding, and that brings the cuts up to 54% of KFSK's budget. A budget cut this large will effectively kill Petersburg's local radio service and 7 KFSK employees will lose their jobs.

Tom Abbott, Manager of KFSK, and KFSK's Board of Directors, have diligently been working on how to reduce their operating costs to absorb the House's proposed 23% cut to public broadcasting funding. Even with a 23% cut, our community will suffer as KFSK will be forced to eliminate all network programming except for National Public Radio (this means there will be no Alaska news or programs), cut employee benefits, and eliminate repair and replacement of broadcasting equipment.

Petersburg is not the only community that relies on KFSK for news and information. KFSK's broadcasting also reaches the communities on Kupreanof Island and Prince of Wales Island as well as our large fishing fleet out on the surrounding fishing grounds.

Please seriously consider the devastating effects a 100% cut to Alaska's public broadcasting funding will have on Petersburg and the surrounding area. A cut of this magnitude will greatly reduce our quality of life and represents a threat to the health and safety of Petersburg residents.

Respectfully,

Cc: Honorable Senator Bert Stedman