

**From:** [Susea Albee- Eric Hanson](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Public Broadcasting Funding  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 2:27:39 PM

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Dear Senator Finance Committee;

I am writing to urge you to vote against zero funding for public broadcasting and satellite service in Alaska.

I understand the dire financial situation of the state and do not envy you the position of figuring out where to make the cuts that need to be made in order for the state to remain fiscally viable.

I am asking you to consider restoration of public media finding in the budget. While some cuts (we've faced flat funding for many years and have managed that, while not optimal, it's been possible for us) can be weathered and survived by KCAW and other SE stations, 100% cut to funding from the state would be devastating and cause permanent damage to local news, weather advisories and emergency alert announcements that keep our communities safe and give us time to prepare for unforeseen situations. Locally and in our neighboring communities served by our translators, often KCAW is our only link to the rest of the state and nation. Cutting this link would put these communities at risk.

Sitka is an expensive and isolating place to live, the voices on our radio from here and around the state make it a desirable and connected place to be. Losing our local station would certainly mean a decrease in desirability and strain on an already stressed local economy. We need to make Sitka and other communities in Alaska places that families and businesses want to be, not places families will leave.

I am very worried about safety in these communities as well as my own. I'm alarmed by potentially losing local voices on our airwaves which is the very voice of Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,  
Susea Albee  
Sitka, Alaska