

From: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: SFIN Public Testimony FW: Funding for Public Broadcasting is Necessary
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 5:54:16 PM

Please find the following public testimony below

From: Leona Baumeister [mailto:shelleybaumer@icloud.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 5:53 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly
Subject: Funding for Public Broadcasting is Necessary

Hello Senator Kelly,

I strongly urge you to stop the cuts proposed for our public broadcasting system in Alaska. Our rural communities rely on their respective public radio stations as more than just a source for national news and music – it is a community-wide communication system. Not only do we hear national and international news we hear local news about our community, we hear about what our friends and neighbors are doing – how they need our help or how we can be helped. Non-profits are able to use public radio stations to maximize information dissemination such as event announcements, ticket information, grant assistance and so much more. Public health issues, ways to grow local food, local job listings, and the fisheries report are just of the few crucial elements to the Alaskan public radio stations.

Please do not allow a 100% cut to public broadcasting in Alaska. Not only will that extreme cut in funding crush the ability for KRBD (which serves Ketchikan, Saxman, Metlakatla, Throne Bay, Craig, Coffman Cove and more communities as well as the fisherman that fish our local waters) to provide exceptional programming, it will also compromise KRBD's ability to seek other funding. While State funding only represents 25% of KRBD's budget, the subsequent loss of grant funding will total an almost 50% cut to one radio station. And it is the only radio station in the area that has been certified as the emergency broadcasting station because of its location and backup systems.

Cutting public broadcasting is a quality of life issue and to remove that source of communication and connectedness between the communities of the various regions, and within the communities themselves, will damage Alaska's ability to thrive as a healthy and integrated state.

Thank you for preserving this extraordinary resource and our quality of life in rural Alaska.

A concerned citizen,
Shelley Baumeister