

From: [Tom Paul/Jan Caulfield](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: budget
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:21:41 AM

I am writing to urge the committee to restore funding to Public Broadcasting and education. Eliminating funding to public broadcasting, a service critical to keep an informed citizenry, emergency preparedness, and critical communication in many areas of the state makes no sense. It is especially silly to eliminate state funds used for matching to capture federal funds available to the many stations in Alaska. Why would you zero out a service that is valued by so many Alaskans of broad backgrounds and diverse political allegiance?

As to education, it is the future of the state. Even in crisis budget times education is the one item that should not be sacrificed. Education at all ages is important and critical to maintaining a strong civil society.

Severe cuts to these items in the budget sends the wrong message about what our legislature values and supports. I know there are hard choices to be made in this fiscal climate, but severely weakening or eliminating programs of value to nearly all Alaskans is not the answer.

Having heard that it is impossible to cut our way out of the budget crisis it seems to me legislators would choose to take a more moderate approach to reductions, tap savings in the short term, and look to making long term bigger fixes to diversify the revenue stream and restructure how large, critical programs are funded.

Sincerely,
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