

From: [Robert Hattle](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Public/Community Radio
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 1:26:34 AM

Dear Senators,

Thank you for your service in these difficult budget cutting times. Please re-consider the 100% cut to public radio. The small savings to the state budget would devastate Sitka's community radio station. Local News would plummet because of multiple staff cuts, like all other public stations in the state. All together this means no statewide news for those without internet access. KCAW would lose capacity to provide health and safety information, broadcast of municipal and tribal government meetings and election coverage.

The 100% cut would result in a loss of almost \$140,000 locally, which would will cause serious and permanent financial harm to KCAW. In addition, these cuts would eliminate all service, including Emergency Alert System alerts for Yakutat, Tenakee Springs, Angoon, Tenakee Springs, Pelican, Port Alexander and Elfin Cove, all along active earthquake zones and at risk of Tsunamis.

As a Registered Nurse I serve on hospital and community teams that determine Emergency Operation Plans for mass casualties in our area. These plans are formed under directives of Homelands Security. Sitka Community Hospital as a Critical Access Hospital is highly dependent on public community radio to be functioning during a disaster. KCAW radio station is integral to our EOP. For as a simple task of notifying Physicians, Nurses and other Hospital Staff to respond to an emergency with mass casualties.

Also as a board member of KCAW we have intentionally planed and invested in broadcast equipment to provide a high standard of emergency response for the community of Sitka and for the even more isolated communities of SE Alaska.

As a board member I can assure you we have already planned for significant cuts in our budget but a 100 percent cut in our state funding means eliminating the function of disaster response.

In closing, I want to thank-you each for serving on the Senate Financing Committee during this critical times for the State of Alaska. Please feel free to contact me as needed

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