

From: [Brett Richardson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Public Radio Testimony
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:41:47 PM

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing from Unalaska, Alaska where I am a volunteer for community radio station KUCB. I am deeply disturbed by the possibility of zero funding from the State of Alaska. State funding cuts will have a damaging effect on our station, and full elimination of funding is potentially devastating. Before you make this decision, please be aware that in rural Alaska we depend on radio. When you decide to cut state funding to radio stations like KUCB, please be aware that you are cutting these services:

- **Emergency alerts.** In the community of Unalaska, KUCB is the go-to source for information during a tsunami warning or extreme weather warning. It's important to remember, here, that we have some of the most extreme weather in the state, including frequent winds over 60 mph, and sometimes gusting over 100. We are also located on an island, where a large portion of the community lives near sea level and the idea of a tsunami impacting our area is chilling, to say the least. Quick and efficient messaging in an emergency is central and KUCB is already providing this.
- **Health and Safety Information.** KUCB works with every service provider in our community to ensure that residents have access to the services they need. This includes collaboration with the local domestic violence shelter, the local health clinics, all mental health service providers, and organizations who provide assistance with substance abuse.
- **A local presence on the air throughout the day.** Our radio hosts are crucial in Unalaska, especially in the morning when they announce travel advisories and municipal closures.
- **Educational Opportunities.** A daily part of our operations, volunteer training includes use of field recorders, audio editing, on-air skills, and use of a live radio console. Our volunteer training program has been a big success this year, resulting in 12 weekly volunteer radio shows and a multitude of special shows featuring the talents of volunteers.
- **Local news.** KUCB Radio provides the only consistent local news content in our community. Our newsroom is heavily dependent on State funding and simply will not exist without it. As an important shipping hub and one of the top fishing ports in the nation, Unalaska and the Port of Dutch Harbor are of huge importance.

If we lose KUCB, we have no local radio. Please consider rural Alaska when you make your decision on funding of public radio.

Sincerely,

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