

From: [David Dierdorff](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Bill Legere](#)
Subject: Public Broadcasting
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:41:34 AM

As a long-time listener and viewer of public radio and TV, I am troubled by the proposed elimination of state funding for this essential service. Alaska's vastness requires many of the services provided only through the stations supported by public dollars and all of Alaska is better informed and educated through the programming offered. In 2013, I had to spend a lot of time in New York City and upstate New York on family matters and I experienced a far different level of service from public broadcasting (in a nutshell, much less accessible and narrower in content), which made me appreciate even more the value we receive through Alaska's public radio and TV networks. Alaskans show their support of this service by consistently providing the highest level of private citizen giving support in the nation on a per capita basis.

I recognize full well the need for some significant cuts in the state budget until either oil prices rebound, appropriate state taxes are imposed, or the Permanent Fund earnings are used for their intended purpose (to provide funding for essential state services when oil ceases to bring in sufficient funds). However, the proposed cuts to state support for public broadcasting go far deeper and create more damage than necessary.

With all due respect, as I understand the challenge you face, having been here during the crisis of the early 1980's, I urge you to restore at least minimal funding for this essential service in your 2015-16 budget.

Sincerely,

Dave Dierdorff
Retired Revisor of Statutes
645 5th St.
Douglas, AK
957-0314