

From: [Douglas B. Molyneaux](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: HB72 Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 2:59:54 PM

Dear Senators:

I am writing in regard to HB72, the operating budget for SFY16, and the impact of proposed cuts to resources such as KYUK radio, operated out of Bethel. These are trying times for balancing the state budget, details of which I learn about primarily through public radio and television. Having an informed citizenry requires maintaining effective avenues for educating them about local, state, national, and international issues. For residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, KYUK is that avenue. I urge you to do what you can to minimize budget cuts to KYUK so it can continue as a viable platform to inform, educate, inspire, and connect residents of the region and the state.

For my part, I pledge to you to double my annual contribution as a supporting member of KYUK, which will amount to \$2,000 in calendar year 2015. I wish others who benefit from KYUK could make the same pledge, but the depressed economic realities of the Y-K region make that an unrealistic goal. This is all the more reason why it is critical that state government help to keep this service available.

I currently live in Anchorage, but for 21 years I was a seasonal resident in Bethel where I served as the Kuskokwim Area fishery research biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, a position I retired from in 2011. During my tenure, KYUK was the primary means to inform the public about regulatory announcements, to educate them about fishery management issues and tools, and to connect residents from throughout the region via call-in shows where we discussed a wide variety of fisheries issues. The recent poor king salmon returns, and consequent management challenges it creates, make it all the more important that KYUK continue to be available to fill this critical communication link. Indeed, I feel so passionate about the importance of KYUK that I have continued to maintain my financial support to the station even after moving from the region. Please join me in continuing to support KYUK.

Senators, I do appreciate the difficulty of our financial circumstance and the tough decisions that you must make. Thank you so much for your service and for considering my request.

Sincerely,

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