

**From:** [nola.walker](mailto:nola.walker)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed cuts to Public Radio  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 12:31:22 PM

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As a Board Member of both KSTK and CoastAlaska I respectfully ask you to NOT zero out all state contributions to public radio. I understand that, as a state, we are in a dire situation, due to our near total reliance on the oil industry for our income. Public Radio is very closely linked to public safety in the many small rural communities that make up Alaska. This includes KSTK in Wrangell. The local radio stations are used for local and statewide news (including election results), the Emergency Alert System (including tsunami warnings to the many coastal communities), as well as other health and safety information. We are the Local Primary source of information in the event of emergencies. These services would be completely eliminated in the case of the proposed Senate budget. Wrangell radio station KSTK would cease to exist.

The cuts proposed to the budget will have a serious effect on our federal funding. It is not possible for a small town like Wrangell to make up the difference in funding through local contributions even though we have been growing the local revenue every year.

While the results of these proposed cuts probably wouldn't be as severe to the Anchorage area, as they have other options, this is not the case for small rural areas. Not only would we be cutoff from information in the event of various emergencies, we would be completely cut off from statewide news programing, such as "Gavel to Gavel" and others.

We at KSTK and CoastAlaska have tried to make economically sound decisions. The very existence of CoastAlaska is the result of such decision making. We share every possible function (engineering, administration, etc) in order to increase our economic viability. We have been good stewards of the public resources we have been given. Please don't throw away all the hard won infrastructure and expertise. It would take years to rebuild the level of service we have now achieved.

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