

From: ispinhoopsak@gmail.com
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Testimony for Budget Cut
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Hello and thank you for your time. I would like to make a testimony for today's committee meeting in regards to the financial cut for public radio.

We all know that finances in our country is one of the largest and most complicated political subjects. Unless we are a part of the decision making process ourselves, most of us have no idea how hard it is to assign financial cuts for any category. I understand and appreciate all that goes into the difficult decisions that have to be made.

Public radio is very much a key component of our community here in Talkeetna. It not only provides crucial outlets for information, but also many people rely solely on our public radio to find out what is happening in their own backyard and beyond. One of the most important aspects of what our radio provides to the people in our community is our Denali Echoes segment during the daily news. These Denali Echoes are an avenue for communicating within the community for those who do not have phones. Many people use this segment to talk to those who otherwise would have no way of communicating. Without this opportunity, many would go without a safety net or easy way of getting information from one person to another without traveling, which can be hazardous many times throughout the year.

Something else very important that cutting funds for public radio would do is restrict providing people education on all kinds of topics from mostly unbiased resources which is dire in our current society with so many skewed point of views that we come into contact with. Our radio station is in direct contact with those in our community, allowing us to air programs that are beneficial and pertinent. Budget cuts would not only diminish a majority (if not all) of these programs, but would also hinder the ability to have that connection to the community.

Denying our station of over a hundred thousand dollars in funding will ultimately put the very existence of our beloved local radio at risk. People will not only lose jobs, lose education opportunities, lose a broad range of music, and lose a connection to others in our community, but people will also lose hope, lose opportunities to grow, lose awareness, and most importantly the capabilities of feeling a true sense of community through the empowerment that our local radio station provides.

Though I speak specifically of KTNA, Talkeetna, I know that a lot of the above statements also ring true for many others in the public radio space. We need our governments' support for the many opportunities that public radio provides to listeners. Please think of the thousands of people that public radio is a large part of their lives and who hold it close to their hearts.

Again, thank you sincerely for your time and hard efforts.
Kelly Thomas, Community Advisory Board member and News Reader