

From: [Michelle Cochran](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Funding for Public Radio
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:41:37 AM

Dear Finance Committee Members:

I respectfully request that you reconsider the current plan to stop funding public radio. I am a resident of Unalaska / Dutch Harbor and depend on public radio. Our internet service is woefully slow, sluggish, and unreliable here. Access to public radio makes all the difference in receiving local, statewide, and national news. It also provides valuable community connections by airing high school sports activities – this is imperative in a community where our kids must travel out of the area in order to participate (we have few home games due to the cost of travel – plus we're a Blue Ribbon School District). As you know, airfare in and out of our community is typically upwards of \$1,000. The radio also plays a critical role in emergency broadcast information.

I am proud to say that we are a community that pays for a lot on our own – we generate a good deal of revenue for the state as well. Making this all work requires partnership. We tax ourselves in myriad ways, we volunteer, we invest in our community radio programming. Please assist us by continuing to fund public radio. We stand to lose \$130,000 in funding which means emergency broadcasts, news (of all sorts), and student activities won't be broadcast in a community that's a vibrant contributor to state. We're not on the road system, our internet is inadequate, and we depend on our public radio station. We need your help.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. Cochran