

April 1, 2015

Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK

RE: Proposed Cuts to Alaska Public Broadcasting

Dear Committee Members:

The proposed cuts to public media are alarming. I have lived in Unalaska for more than twenty three years and I can tell you firsthand that our local radio station, KUCB, provides vital services to our community. KUCB is the only source of daily local news, but also provides state, national, and international news; fisheries reports; weather alerts (which are, as you know, a matter of public safety in a community such as ours; updates about community events; and emergency announcements.

It is distressing to think that the legislature does not recognize how vital these services are to our citizens. If implemented, these cuts will be devastating to many small communities across the state, including ours, and will result in work force reductions and corresponding reductions in local service throughout Alaska. Our communities depend on these services!

You may think of a radio station as *just* music and entertainment, but in rural Alaska it is so much more. It is an integral part of community life, providing essential information to our residents as they go through their day. We rely on KUCB to keep us updated on local issues, upcoming elections, City Council activities, weather, marine info, emergency alerts, high school sports (a big part of rural life!) and local events and activities. I ask that you take our community's needs into consideration when discussing such a major cut to public broadcasting. Please seriously weigh the implications these cuts will have on our small communities throughout Alaska as you make your decision.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

M. Lynn Crane