

**From:** [David Eckwert](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 3:09:47 PM

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Greetings,

As a board member and volunteer at KBBI am890 in Homer, I want to tell you of my concern over the proposed budget elimination of public broadcasting funds. First of all, KBBI is a vital service to the Homer community not only as a source for community access information and news but also as a vital emergency information hub in our community. It is also one of the only governmental access points for many in Homer as we broadcast local and borough meetings thus informing our electorate.

Such drastic cuts will be devastating to the station and our community that relies on us. There is also a domino effect with other funding sources not being willing to continue to support us if state funding is gone. While I can appreciate the difficult fiscal times in which we currently live, a complete cut in funding to stations such as ours is not the answer. Public media in Alaska is highly valued as evidenced by some of the highest per capita community support in the country. Constituents and local business support grows annually but cannot grow to replace the \$4.2m. Alaskans, especially rural and bush residents, will lose community based programming and services, in particular local news and public affairs.

I strongly urge you to reconsider a more reasonable reduction of funding that allows us to continue the vital service of public broadcasting to our community.

Thank you,

David Eckwert

President, KBBI Board of Directors.