

**From:** [Dave Edwards-Smith](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Public Testimony on Operating Budget  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 8:26:26 PM

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Dear: Alaska Senate Finance Committee

I appreciate the difficult financial circumstances and decisions facing the legislature. I know that you are informed that impact of the state budget cuts on public radio would be catastrophic. Public Radio would suffer permanent harm. We are looking at a 20-40% loss of operating value that results in a \$130,000 loss in direct state grants for KDLL. These cuts impact our CPB funding and in FY18 could result in the loss of the 90,000 KDLL receives. Statewide 10 stations at risk of losing annual federal grants = \$2.5m. Lost federal matching funds = \$316k. This is a total loss of operating revenue = \$2.8m.

Public Media in Alaska is highly valued and has the highest per capita community support in the country. KDLL has a broad base of members that count on KDLL for local news, emergency notifications, borough assembly meeting broadcasting, Alaska public media, national programming and community based programming. With the proposed funding cuts we will be unable to provide these services to our community.

On a personal note, myself and my children have been given the honor of hosting a public radio show. Every Thursday night for the past seven years I have watched my children grow up as public radio volunteers. Public radio is unique in that it offers opportunities for the community that is unavailable on commercial radio. The proposed funding cuts result in an inability to meet the costs needed to maintain the equipment that make this opportunity possible.

Once again, I genuinely appreciate the difficult circumstances and decisions that are now facing the legislature. Thank you for your support of KDLL and Alaska Public Broadcasting.

David Edwards-Smith

KDLL Board of Director