

From: [Doug Fleming](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: regarding proposed funding cuts to public radio
Date: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 5:42:46 PM

Dear members of the Senate Finance Subcommittee,

My name is Margaret Fleming and I am writing to you to ask that you reconsider the drastic funding cuts that have been proposed to public radio in Alaska.

I have lived and worked in Alaska for 27 years and am proud to consider myself an Alaskan. I have two sons, one a Junior in college and the other a High School Senior. They are bright, energetic boys and I am excited to think that after they finish college they plan to return to Alaska to live and work.

We currently live in Petersburg, a rural island community in Southeast Alaska, where my husband fishes commercially. It is a close knit community where community members work together and support each other.

Our local public radio station, KFSK, is an integral part of this community and enjoys very strong support from Petersburg's residents. Not only is it a reliable source of news and entertainment but it plays a vital role in keeping our community safe, with broadcasts ranging from weather warnings, emergency alerts and even updates regarding lock downs at the local schools.

The proposed cuts to public radio would be devastating to our local radio station. Not only would the station lose state revenue but the budget cuts would bring KFSK below federal qualifying minimums, and result in still additional cuts. These cumulative budget cuts would cripple KFSK, and effectively terminate a service which is vital to our community.

I understand that an array of budgetary cuts are needed in the state in this time of declining oil revenues, but I would urge you to moderate your proposed cuts to a service as vital to rural Alaskans as public radio.

Perhaps it is time to consider additional sources of revenue for our state, such as reinstating a state income tax, to ensure the continuation of essential services, for all Alaskans.

Thanks you for considering my comments regarding this important topic.

Sincerely,

Margaret Fleming

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