

**From:** [Kathleen Gustafson](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Public Broadcasting  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 01, 2015 11:16:09 AM

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To:

The esteemed members of the Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

Please consider rescinding the proposed cuts to public broadcasting in Alaska.

I am employed by a public radio station, KBBI Homer. So, yes, I am concerned about my job, but I feel I must share my personal concerns as a constituent.

My husband works in bush Alaska for months at a time in the winter and has only a satellite phone for contact. There is no "calling in" if the phone is off or out of power. When our son died two years ago, it was a public radio "Bushline" that was able to reach him. I was able to contact my husband the very day I needed him most. Without public broadcasting, we would have had to wait for his scheduled call, weeks later.

The rest of the year, our family works from our fishing boat, F/V Vigor in the Gulf of Alaska and the Kodiak Archipelago. Access to the marine forecast is a literal matter of life and death. In decades of fishing, we, and our colleagues on the water have all experienced failures in our communication systems. There have been instances where our only access to up-to-date weather information is AM public radio forecasts which we pick up on a side band. This is not a situation that has been rendered obsolete by technology. It is a reality today in coastal communities all over the state.

Public broadcasting is a vital part of the necessary infrastructure of Alaska, as important as roads and bridges. In fact, I would venture that our state's lack of roads make public radio even more important to the health and safety of the people you strive to represent. I'm hoping that many voters have contacted you with their stories. Please add my voice to theirs and work to fully fund this important resource.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jarl and Kathleen Gustafson  
F/V Vigor Homer, Alaska