

From: [Genie Hambrick](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: We need Alaska public broadcasting! In Homer, we need KBBI!
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 3:29:34 PM

I understand the challenges that Alaska's legislators face in making decisions that are best for our state, and I am grateful to you for taking on this responsibility. I hope that in your budget deliberations you will find a way to continue support for public broadcasting.

My personal connection to public broadcasting is Homer's KBBI AM890. This station is an essential component of the community infrastructure of the southern Kenai Peninsula and villages across Kachemak Bay. We all rely on KBBI for local and state news, weather reports, and emergency communication 365 days a year.

As a member of KBBI's board of directors, I see first-hand how the small professional staff struggles daily to maintain outstanding service to everyone in our extended community. They are frugal and resourceful, in the best of Alaska tradition, but the cuts proposed by the Senate's Finance Subcommittee will be devastating.

As I understand it, if state funding for public broadcasting is cut 100%, KBBI will lose about \$130,000. This will mean staff layoffs. The loss of state funding and staff will then precipitate cuts in federal support, and local contributions are not sufficient to maintain the level of service this community needs. The truth is that while people in this part of the state depend on KBBI, not many of us can afford to contribute substantially to the station. Many of our listeners can't afford to contribute at all.

We are grateful for the state's support in the past and ask you to include funding for public broadcasting in next year's budget. We need your help now as we continue doing our part to ensure the future of our community's public radio station.

Sincerely,
Genie Hambrick
Homer, Alaska