

From: [Shawna Kristan](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: KUCB in Unalaska
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 7:24:51 PM

Hello,

As a long-time citizen of Unalaska, I am writing to you, the members of the Senate Finance Committee, to let you know how crucial KUCB is to our community. This non-profit Radio and TV station is absolutely a necessity in our far-flung island city and keeps us connected to the rest of Alaska, the world at large, and perhaps most importantly, to ourselves. As a frequent and long-term listener and viewer of KUCB's media content, I have personally benefited in so many ways over the years, but it is from the perspective of a high school English teacher that I mostly want to speak. Over the past 17 years, KUCB has bent over backwards to provide learning opportunities for my students when the school and both the TV and Radio station have combined forces and partnered in dynamic and creative media projects. My students have gained inestimable communication skills and confidence through their work with KUCB and I think it would be a crime to see that fruitful partnership end. Currently, I have two students, Mia Magalong, who DJs her own radio show three times a week, and Liam Andersen, who recently started working with the KUCB news staff and is already reporting local stories to the rest of the state. I couldn't be prouder of the two of them than I already am, and look forward to hearing and reading more from them this year--as well as from other students in the future who will also want to explore possible mass media and communication careers via internships with KUCB.

When I first read that the Senate had proposed total elimination of public media funding, I thought I must have mistaken the word "total." I know that as a state we are facing an extremely serious budget crisis, but please remember that we live in a democracy, and public media funding is an absolute girder underpinning the flow of unbiased information in our country. Please keep public media funding exactly where it is currently so that as Unalaskans we can continue to be connected to the state, as well as staying connected to other community members via unique local programming.

Thank you,

Shawna K. Rudio
P.O. Box 921458
Dutch Harbor, AK
99692