

From: [Education Coordinator](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: public radio funding
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:49:34 AM

Dear Finance Committee,

I am a public radio supporter, and I am asking you to support public radio too by restoring their funding. I respect that you have tough choices to make where the budget is concerned, but I humbly ask you to reconsider the idea of eliminating funding to public media.

I am writing from Unalaska, where I listen to radio station KUCB every day. The first thing that I do when I wake up in the morning is turn the radio on. The morning host tells me about weather and travel advisories. This is important in a town with weather as severe as what we experience in the Aleutian Islands. I also rely on the radio station for local news. KUCB is the only newsroom in the region, and their reporters are excellent. Here in Unalaska, total elimination of state funding will reduce our total station budget by about one quarter. It is my understanding that a cut of this magnitude would be impossible to sustain without reducing staff hours. KUCB's morning host and news team are both possible because we are adequately funded. I would hate to see a reduction of local content. In our region, and in many parts of the state, public media is a necessity: we can't rely on internet because it's slow and inconsistent, our cell phones are unreliable, and in certain weather conditions cable television doesn't work. Our radio station is always there for us.

The State of Alaska is so lucky to have 26 stations like KUCB throughout the State. And every evening you can hear the hard work of public radio reporters during Alaska News Nightly. Our stations are strong because our state has prioritized public radio and invested in it through an annual operating grant. Please maintain this investment and fund public media!

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