

**From:** [Mary Pete](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Restore cuts to Public Broadcasting  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 10:01:47 AM

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Members of the Alaska Senate Finance Committee:

Please restore funding to Alaska Public Broadcasting Service. Our KYUK Radio and TV Station is vital to so much in our lives in the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta region, as I am certain you have learned from other testimony about all other public broadcasting stations throughout the state.

I want to share KYUK's importance primarily from the perspective of my role as the director of Kuskokwim Campus - UAF (KuC) in Bethel. KYUK provides a venue to advertise our classes, events, and important deadlines for our campus. It offers scholarship, internship and volunteer DJ opportunities that make life all that more enriching for our students and other residents. It broadcasts news and other programming in Central Yup'ik Eskimo, the local indigenous language, which reinforces the need for our Yup'ik language academic programs and honors the importance of our indigenous culture. News broadcasts written by local staff reflect local values, providing nuance and more thoughtful framing. Not everyone has internet and cell service can be erratic, so broadcasting of emergency or critical information, such as school cancelations due to weather or road conditions, unsafe river travel conditions happens through KYUK.

These connecting activities that KYUK performs provide such an essential nexus for so many agencies and programs in our daily lives. I know we will all share in the belt-tightening, but rural Alaska should not lose the only existing option for public broadcasting services.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

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"Optimism is the highest of spiritual developments." Neil Gordon