

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Renea Saade [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:22 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of Public Media

Hello,

I am a resident of Anchorage and have lived here for 10 years. During my entire time living here, I have benefited from public media. As a parent of two elementary school aged children - I greatly appreciate all the educational programming available on AK Public Media and the wide variety of musical and news programming available on KNBA and KSKA. My life as well as my children's is enriched each day through the programming and resources shared through these mediums. We do not have cable television and rely upon these resources for local and national news programming and up to date information regarding community events. My children and I have learned more about the diverse culture of our great state through the many different Alaska Native programming and many other programs that enable us to learn about different music genres and expose us to the many different languages spoken in our neighborhoods.

As a legal professional and community member, I have also seen first hand the impact our local public media resources have upon our neighbors and community businesses. Many clients and businesses learn about new laws, regulations and resources through public media, use public media to engage in discourse and exchange of new ideas and build a community to help effectuate change. As a board member and volunteer (I provide pro bono legal assistance to several public media stations in our state), I know how hard the professionals work to keep these forums running despite the continual reductions in funds available. Their dedication and commitment to their work and the greater good is commendable and truly a testament to the community built by these organizations. I fear that if funding continues to decrease - many of these high caliber professionals will be unable/unwilling to stay and will leave to the lower 48 to join other media organizations. Any such drain on talent will be a devastating blow to our community.

I cannot stress the importance of public media enough. When other local resources are dwindling (cuts to UAA programming as an example) and folks are confined to their homes - these resources can timely delivery the information and resources related to events impacting our day to day lives as well as provide some much needed relief through music and learning.

Please fully fund these important statewide resources.

Thank you for your consideration,

~Renea Saade

Sent from my iPad

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Artemis BonaDea <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:12 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** support public radio

There is no better example of why we need a strong public radio system in Alaska than the present virus. We need a public, non-partisan voice that can report on all things across Alaska and Alaska Public Media is it.

Please lend all your support to full funding for Alaska Public Radio.

Artemis BonaDea  
Box 58  
Gustavus, AK 99826

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Dave Cannon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:10 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Media Funding

Dear Senators,

This disruption of life brought on by the COVID-19 demonstrates the need for the dissemination of important information from public radio stations during times like this.

I believe that it's imperative that budget includes adequate funding for public radio.

Sincerely

Dave Cannon  
Aniak

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Marlene Cushing ~~cushing@alaska.gov~~  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 3:06 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Operating budget

Public radio is proving its worth in this public health emergency. FUND IT!

Wouldn't we be in a stronger position if the Fairbanks state lab still had 10 microbiologists? If public health front line nurses were at their former numbers? Budget cuts to vital services are hurting us.

Marlene Cushing  
Petersburg, Alaska

## **Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Michael Tavoliero <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:50 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony to 03/18//2020 Senate Finance Hearing

Dear Members of Senate Finance Committee,

I suspect by now you are all pretty tired with hearing from everyone who wants this or that from the state's treasury to fund their own employment or pet projects. It's interesting.

But inconsiderate.

We are facing for the first time in the history of our state and country the most adverse economic impact dealt by the Covid-19. The overall state economy will be in shambles within the next few months because businesses have shut down, employees are cast to the street, mortgages cannot be paid, and on and on as the economy train wreck unfolds with each car crippling the next.

You have an opportunity for the first time since our oil wealth to do the right thing.

Return the full amount of the Permanent Fund Dividend to the people of Alaska. Not only will this be appreciated but it will be remembered by your constituents on November 3, 2020.

That's \$1,022.00 from 2016, \$1,100.00 from 2017, \$1,600 from 2018 and \$1,600 for 2019. That doesn't even include 2020. Without the interest owed and not including the 2020 PFD, that's \$5,139.00.

Hope you do the right thing.

If not, you may want to consider a new job.

Best Wishes,

Michael Tavoliero  
24618 Wilma Circle  
Eagle River, Alaska 99577  
Cell: (907) 230-1992

Confidentiality Notice: This electronic mail transmission, and any attachment to it, contains privileged and confidential information intended only for the personal and confidential use of recipient(s) designated above. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender and please destroy the original message and all copies. Thank you.

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Andrew Brewer <awbrewer@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:32 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** A recommendation from a citizen on the current budget and emergency response to the virus  
**Attachments:** Graduated Dividend hires.jpg

The first question I would like to pose is: What is the best way to respond to the current emergency given our conservative fiscal approach? How can we get the most "bang for our buck" by helping those in the need, quickly and efficiently? What is the current emergency likely to cost us?

The answer to the first question is found in the attachment which I call the Graduated Dividend. It is a one half statutory dividend (1 billion) distributed on the basis of household income. It was created by applying an income tax to the Dividend, without creating a new income tax law.

The answer to the second question, I have not fully fleshed out. It would require using existing infra structure and obtaining the information from those who have been impacted by the lay offs from Gov't closures of businesses. That need is said to be 20,000 individual employees in Anchorage alone.

The last question must suppose information about the length of the emergency and the progress of the virus. The latest realistic estimate I have seen is that we should know in 8 weeks whether we are out of the woods or not. We have seen a very significant decrease in cases in both China and S. Korea. This means the disease can be contained. What the cost will be in terms of dollars to the State of Alaska....depends on the amount of time businesses are shut down and people are laid off. The State must assume responsibility for the action it takes in controlling the virus. And there will be other losses in Revenue due to the pandemic. So, consider well in coming up with an estimate of what fighting the virus is going to cost.

I appreciate your consideration,

Andrew Brewer  
Eagle River, AK

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Teri Stephens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:39 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Media budget amount

Dear Committee members,

Please add our voice to those supporting the Alaska Public Media amount budgeted to potentially increase. Our family listens to the radio and watches Public Broadcasting every day. It has been most important during the earthquake in 2018 and recently in the day by day information we receive about the Coronavirus outbreak and the steps being recommended to reduce the spread. We also learn from many interviews and special programs offered in timely fashion to inform and educate as well as entertain. Even though we do make financial contributions to Alaska Public Media it is vital that our government continue a high level of support to ensure local programming continues it's current quality.

Thank you very much.

Teris and Robert Stephens

Wasilla

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Finance Committee Testimony scheduled for 18 March

After several attempts to get through on the phone, I was finally in the queue (I think) when the battery on my phone exhausted and I lost my place.  
So I'll attempt to write my testimony here.

---

I understand that our already tight finances are only getting tighter now that oil prices are taking another hit and the stock market is dropping like a rock, but I would still like to voice support for critical pieces of state infrastructure like public broadcasting, state ferries and airport maintenance and the university system.

I've heard some of the same old refrains coming from the "don't take my PFD" crowd.  
I get it that several people are worried about not getting as big a PFD check as they somehow think they're entitled to. They want their piece of our 'rainy day' fund no matter how much of the state infrastructure might suffer in order to get it.

We all like the idea of a free payday at the permanent fund's expense, but the adults in the room recognize that the very workings of the machinery of government are on the line. Our Permanent Fund was created as a hedge against the day when oil revenues would dwindle and that day is today. If I don't get a dime from a PFD check but our schools are open, the roads, airports and ferries are running, and our communications treasure is alive, that's just fine with me.

Charles Thompson  
Homer



## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Michael Jeffery [mailto:mj@alaska.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:37 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. Donny Olson  
**Subject:** Comments on Operating Budget, SB 205

To the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Michael Jeffery, a 43+ year resident of Utqiagvik/Barrow, Alaska. I have the experience of being a retired Superior Court Judge, but I am making these comments personally. Our state and nation are going through especially challenging times. I appreciate your dedication and willingness to grapple with these issues, balancing effectively the financial realities with the increasing difficulties faced by Alaskans. I am willing to pay broad-based taxes to help provide funds for these important programs.

I support continued funding for the following:

1. Public Broadcasting. KBRW is our local radio station and is a critical part of our lives--especially now. It serves an area the size of Minnesota, and carries a broad mix of programming including international/state/local news, native cultural events, programs of our faith communities, local public meetings and the daily calendar. These activities are especially important as most people must stay at home due to COVID-19. Public television is also an important link to the greater world with unbiased news reporting, cultural program and documentaries and mystery shows.
2. Reentry Services in the Department of Corrections and associated agencies. Such activities are not only humane, but they are tremendously cost-effective to reduce the high rate of returning citizens who end up back in jail.
3. Therapeutic Courts. These programs have proved themselves nationwide to effectively help with rehabilitation of those involved with the justice system. The personal attention these courts foster is especially effective for persons with neurobehavioral issues like FASD and Autism.
4. Expansion of treatment programs statewide. I observed how hard it was for both adults and youth involved in the justice system to obtain needed and often mandated treatment in a timely manner. When a person is on felony probation or juvenile supervision, with a treatment order, and the person cannot obtain treatment for many months, the risk of recidivism is great. Treatment works and we need to make sure it's available in a timely manner to justice system-involved Alaskans.

Thank you for time reviewing these comments!

Michael I. Jeffery

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** chuck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:34 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Testimony scheduled for Wednesday, 18 March

After several attempts to get through on the phone, I was finally in the queue (I think) when the battery on my phone exhausted and I lost my place.  
So I 'll attempt to write my testimony here.

---

I understand that our already tight finances are only getting tighter now that oil prices are taking another hit and the stock market is dropping like a rock, but I would still like to voice support for critical pieces of state infrastructure like public broadcasting, state ferries and airport maintenace and the university system.

I've heard some of the same old refrains coming from the "don't take my PFD" crowd.  
I get it that several people are worried about not getting as big a PFD check as they somehow think they're entitled to. They want their piece of our 'rainy day' fund no matter how much of the state infrastructure might suffer in order to get it.

We all like the idea of a free payday at the permanent fund's expense, but the adults in the room recognize that the very workings of the machinery of government are on the line. Our Permanent Fund was created as a hedge against the day when oil revenues would dwindle and that day is today. If I don't get a dime from a PFD check but our schools are open, the roads, airports and ferries are running, and our communications treasure is alive, that's just fine with me.

Charles Thompson  
Homer

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Brad Owens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:34 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Funding for Public Broadcasting

Members of the Finance Committee:

I am a long-time member of public broadcasting in Alaska. This public media provides balanced views to keep listeners informed about local, state, national and international stories and issues. It provides news that matters to all of us in our daily lives, such as elections, budgeting and legislative matters, and health and safety issues. Right now the coverage of the pandemic at the local, state and national level is a critical service public media provides to Alaskans. Public media stations are busy sharing accurate information about the public health emergency, about resources that are available in each of our communities and in the State of Alaska, as well as up to date info on what has been canceled or rescheduled. With so many people staying home local public radio is the ideal source of accurate news and information available over the air or online.

I urge you to continue state support for Alaska Public Media and provide full funding to allow it to be able to continue the important role it has played over the last 40 years.

Brad Owens  
Anchorage AK

Sent from my iPhone

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Dempsey Thieman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:31 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Input on Public Radio Funding

Hello – I and many other Alaskans around the rely heavily on Alaska Public Media- both radio and TV. I listen every day and I also financially support both public radio stations in my town (Anchorage – KSKA and KNBA) as well as KAKM – TV. APM is a tremendously important resource for Alaskans around the state – keeping us informed, communication and sense of community – especially in light of the current epidemic – but also during normal times. I urge you to fully fund APM.

I am also a super-voter.

Thank you,

Dempsey Thieman  
11100 Magnolia St  
Anchorage AK, 99516  
c. 907.242.3958

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Steve Behnke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please fully fund public radio for Alaskan's safety

Greetings —

Public radio, with capability for widespread dissemination of reliable information and news is key to Alaskans' health and safety in this time of coronavirus epidemic.

Please fund it to the maximum, or at least to the extent of the \$1 million proposed in the budget for public radio and \$879,500 for satellite communications.

Thank you.

Steve Behnke  
4545 Thane Rd.  
Juneau, Alaska

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Jan Mulder [jmulder15@alaska.gov](mailto:jmulder15@alaska.gov)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:07 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** funding public media

I respectfully request the Alaska legislature provide the greatest amount of funds possible to support Alaska Public Media. The work done in this state by Alaska Public Media is valuable, professional, necessary and of absolute importance during this time of pandemics and national elections. Please go above and beyond in supporting financially the work and outreach of Alaska Public Media. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jan Mulder  
Po Box 315  
Sutton AK 99674

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Robert Auth [mailto:authm@gonnet]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:03 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Alaska Public Media

Dear Members of Committee:

I am asking for you to support funding for public radio. Public radio is more important to the people of Alaska than most radio stations around the Lower 48 because we have so many communities that have no other way of listening to what is going on in Alaska. There are many, many sites on the internet that cater to national news, but most local papers have a paywall. For people that don't have a public library or access to the internet, public radio is a valuable service. Although I live in Anchorage, I tune into KSKA because it's programming is with parallel where I can hear what is going on in Anchorage, our nation and internationally.

My husband and I also enjoy the programming on our local public television station. We give to our public stations, but we can only do so much.

Please, please continue the funding for our public media.

Respectfully yours,

Margaret Auth

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Christina VanCleve [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:57 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public media funding

I respectfully and urgently ask the legislature to fully fund AK Public Media during the current session. The national health and economic crisis is a perfect example of the need for this essential communication for AK people, especially for those in more remote areas.

Thank you.  
Christina VanCleve  
Chickaloon, AK.

Sent from my iPhone



## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Nancy Dryden ~~nancydryden@alaska.gov~~  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:51 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** funding KAKM

To the Senate Finance Committee,

Please approve of the budgeted \$1 million for public radio KAKM. It is a station I, as well as many Mat-Su Valley family and friends, listen to for the most accurate information on local news, health and safety particularly with the present day Corona virus and its effects on Alaskan communities. I have been listening to KAKM for years to keep me informed about issues outside of Alaska and appreciate their well informed research and views. Please vote on the budgeted public radio amount of \$1 million dollars or more so that Alaskan can continue receiving satellite communications that can reach us around Anchorage as well as the rural (Bush) communities. Thank you.

Nancy Dryden, Sutton, Alaska

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Bill & Kate Goodell [mailto:billgoodell@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support funding for public radio

In addition to the news and entertainment value, public radio is my source of weather information on the Gulf of Alaska side of the Kenai Peninsula when out of range of the Coast Guard weather radio, as well as in Prince William Sound.

William Goodell  
2421 Maylen Cir  
Anchorage, Alaska

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Dan Ruthrauff [mailto:druthrauff@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget support for public radio

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

My name is Dan Ruthrauff, and I'm writing to encourage you to support public radio and associated satellite communications. I urge you to consider the current budget funding levels (\$1 million and \$879,000, respectively) as minimum funding levels. Our current coronavirus health crisis has made it abundantly clear that the safety and health of our community relies of many moving pieces, and these pieces are all supported by an informed and educated public. I have been listening to Alaska Public Media now more than usual, and have been thankful for their thorough, unbiased, and calming reporting. Now more than ever, we need the ability to communicate. Please support Alaska's local public radio. Sincerely,

Dan Ruthrauff  
2710 E. 20th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99508

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Victoria Noble [mailto:Victoria.Noble@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:40 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget Allocations for Public Media

Dear Finance Committee members,

My husband and I ask for your continued support in the budget for the allocations for public media. We have supported public media through our yearly contributions for the past 30+ years. We have prioritized continuing to do so, even while on a greatly reduced and fixed budget after retirement.

A great example of how public media keeps Alaskans connected and informed was found in the first coordinated Anchorage/Alaska information meeting about the Covid-19 virus on public TV just a few days ago. How precious that was to calming anxieties and increasing our understanding of how our communities are coming together to fight the threat. With both of us over age 65, it is important to have public media as a lifeline while we are social distancing by remaining housebound. It helped us understand how the public schools would take care of our grandchildren's education and food, how public health was following up on the known Anchorage case, how emergency personnel routinely utilize decontamination protocols, gave us ideas for confronting behavioral health issues (such as fears of the unknown), whether voting would be impacted, and more.

Thank you and blessings to you and yours during this stressful time.

Victoria and Thomas Noble  
3465 Lunar Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99504

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Bill Sherwonit <akgriz@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:33 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Comment in support of funding for Alaska's public media, both radio and TV

To Senate Finance Committee members,  
As one who daily is informed, educated and entertained by KSKA, KNBA, and PBS (channel 7 in Anchorage), I urge you to support the \$1 million in funding that I understand is in the proposed budget for public radio and \$879,500 for satellite communications. It's unclear to me whether there's additional funding for public TV, but I would support that, too. In short, I encourage you to sufficiently fund all forms of public media in Alaska. (For the record, I'm a sustaining member of both KNBA and Alaska Public Media, so I'm doing my part.)

As you're well aware, state funding of public media is especially important in Alaska for any number of reasons. Chief among them right now is the critical--and impressively excellent--role that public media is playing in keeping Alaskans informed about the expanding COVID-19 pandemic crisis. I can think of no better example of the role that public media can play than KAKM and KSKA's broadcast of the community update and press conference held by Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz and other key members of the Anchorage community earlier this week. I watched the event on KAKM and both the update and the airing of it were of the highest quality.

More reasons for the state to properly fund public media:

- It helps public radio and TV stations to replace aging broadcast equipment while securing the only statewide communications system that provides potentially life-saving alerts, news, and information.
- State funding helps to provide culturally relevant news/talk and entertainment programming to underserved Alaska Natives, while connecting rural communities by sharing a variety of programming that is otherwise unavailable and keep rural Native communities connected, engaged, and informed.
- State funding helps public media to better connect, inform, and encourage Alaskans to engage in civil conversations and participate in our state's unique civic and cultural activities.
- It contributes to the distribution of important news and cultural content like that in National Native News, Native America Calling and Indigefi. Similarly it enables what some have called a "virtual statewide early learning classroom" that features high-quality educational television content, such as Molly of Denali, In My Family, Sesame Street, and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.

For all these reasons and more, I urge you to restore full funding of public radio and television in Alaska. This is truly money that is well spent and contributes to a better-informed citizenry across the state and the political spectrum.

Thanks for considering my comments,  
Bill Sherwonit  
Anchorage, Alaska  
akgriz@hotmail.com

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Lauren Bell [laurenbell1185@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbell1185@gmail.com)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:30 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Maintain Public Broadcasting funding!

Hello,

I'm a lifelong Alaskan, living now in Sitka. I'd like to request that the Senate Finance committee please **maintain funding for public media in the current budgeting process**. At this time more than ever, it is clear how vital public broadcasting is to the people of our state. Broadcasters like KCAW in Sitka are THE resource for compiled lists of community cancellations, declarations, and news related to the COVID-19 outbreak. They provide trusted information for the public to turn to as we figure out what's happening, and especially during this time of social distancing and house-arrest, public broadcasting is THE source of continual info about what's happening locally. I am so grateful for the service they provide - please please please continue to support it, for the health and safety of all Alaskans.

Thank you for your time.  
Lauren Bell  
Sitka, Alaska  
907-738-8007



# RurAL CAP

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

731 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907.279.2511  
[www.ruralcap.org](http://www.ruralcap.org)

---

March 18, 2020

To: Alaska Senate Finance Committee

Re: Weatherization

From: Kenton (Kent) J Banks / Director of Home Improvement – RurAL CAP

I strongly support funding the Low Income residential Weatherization program. Numerous Alaska low-income residents remain in need of weatherization for their homes to reduce their utility burden, promote healthy indoor air quality and reduce future mold problems associated with poor ventilation. RurAL CAP seeks continued State of Alaska funding for the Weatherization Program.

DOE funding limits per home (approx. \$7,500.00-7,600.00), are not adequate to support the necessary infrastructure required to provide services in most rural locations without additional funding being added through the State of Alaska. In order to serve rural locations, DOE funding must consist of a blend of DOE and State funding to cover such additional costs as freight, storage and disposal of debris, along with other costs associated with construction in remote locations. Without State funding to blend with DOE, the DOE funding alone is not adequate to provide Weatherization, in rural locations.

The Weatherization Program has a proven payback record through energy usage reductions and improved health of occupants for all homes served by the program. Measures performed on any home must meet AKWARM program energy saving requirements approving the application of each measure applied to the home. Every home served with Weatherization must meet ASHRAE 62.2 indoor air quality standards also. Cold Climate Housing Research Corp. indicates that the overall average reduction in utilities usage in rural Alaska is 28%, which represents huge savings for any low-income family living in rural Alaska. Indoor air quality requirements add respiratory health benefits for Weatherization recipients also.

The housing crisis in Alaska is real and predominant in rural locations, with much of the housing stock already in poor condition. Rising water levels and melting permafrost are adding to the problems rural residents are facing with mold and overall house structure deterioration from rot associated with continuous moisture exposure. Weatherization improves the life expectancy of every home served. In rural Alaska, maintaining housing stock is a high priority with many residents realizing the existing failed and near failing homes all over the state. Rural residents have few if any options for renovation and updating of their home. Most are unable to upgrade their home for code compliance and overall health and safety.

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Kenley Jackson ~~kenley.jackson@alaska.gov~~  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:20 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support for public broadcasting

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Please retain the \$1 million in the current budget for public broadcasting.

At this time of great uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 virus, public broadcasting is even more critical to getting emergency information and news out to communities all over the state. KCAW in Sitka has a COVID-19 info hub that collects news stories, notices of cancellations, and directs Sitkan's to reliable sources of information like the CDC and Alaska Department of Health and Social Services that will make a difference to save many lives in our community.

I hope you agree that this is a critical service anytime, especially now.

Respectfully,  
Kenley Jackson  
Sitka



## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Megs Testarmata [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:20 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget input

Dear Finance Committee,

I am not well informed about the budget issues because the LIO is closed. However, I would like to weigh in with my limited knowledge of what is before you.

In my 35+ years in Alaska, I have lived in many areas of the state: from south to north: Ketchikan, Tenakee Springs, Juneau, Nikolski (far Aleutians), Seward, Seldovia, Anchorage, and Nome, and had temporary assignments of several months in Emmonak, Pilot Station, and Kotzebue.

I beseech you to fund the **ferry system**. It is part of the highway system and the only connection for many Alaskans. The cuts to the ferry system are killing the communities who rely on it.

I ask you to fund the **University of Alaska** more generously than Governor Dunleavy so that our youth will stay here and not have to leave the state to get a good higher education in their chosen field. I also support adequate funding of our K-12 education system.

I believe **Alaska Public Media** is critical to state and deserves full funding. In my 35+ years in Alaska, I have lived in many rural areas of the state, and without public radio, I would have lost my connection to the greater state I live in. Below are some of the reasons the Alaska Legislature should support funding this Alaska Public Media. They are also the reasons I support it with donations.

:

1. Alaska Public TV is virtual statewide early learning classroom featuring high-quality educational television content, such as Molly of Denali, In My Family, Sesame Street, and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.
2. Public radio and television connects, informs, and encourages all Alaskans to engage in civil conversations and participate.
3. Alaska Public Media distributes important cultural news and cultural content like National Native News, Native America Calling and Indigefi.
4. Alaska Public Media provides culturally relevant news/talk and entertainment programming to underserved rural communities that allow them to stay connected, engaged, and informed.

Thank you for considering my comments in your difficult decisions. I am willing to have my PFD go to the common good. I also think oil companies are not and should be paying their fair share.

Margaret Megs Testarmata  
PO Box 864  
Seward, AK 99664  
907- 250-1962

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Donna Goldsmith <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Alaska Public Media

Dear Senator von Imhof, Senator Stedman, and members of the Finance Committee:

I am writing to urge this committee to approve the proposed minimum of \$879,500 for public radio and satellite communications in Alaska.

Alaska's vast landscape, and scattered populations in remote and rural communities, require access to public media's coverage of local, state and national news. Public media's vast network of stations and cooperative endeavors with local agencies and national organizations ensures that all Alaskans remain fully informed on critical issues.

Statewide and local news, including public health and safety messaging, are vital to the safety of all Alaskans for a variety of reasons. Alaskans are used to weather-related emergencies, which are the norm up here. We have always counted on public radio to provide us with important information, as it has always been there to inform us what is affecting our safety and our lives. But there are many other types of safety issues that require our vigilances, and informed attention.

The current Covid 19 virus pandemic is a new type of threat for Alaskans. There is no doubt that the virus will continue to expand its presence in Alaska in the coming weeks - and we must do everything within our power to try to get ahead of the curve to prevent a disaster. This pandemic offers a perfect example of how important it is for all of us to be able to know exactly what is affecting or could affect communities throughout our state. It is becoming ever-more apparent, as well, that news from across the nation and throughout the world have a direct and important impact upon our learning curve so that we can better prepare our communities.

Our public media stations are providing Alaskans us with of-the-minute, essential information, as they have always done. This current public health emergency, like any other crisis, requires us to be fully informed, which enables us to work with one another to ensure that we are doing everything within our power to protect ourselves, our families, our neighbors, and our communities throughout the state. As many of us continue to isolate ourselves from social interactions, it is ever-more important for us to have accurate information, to know what the current recommendations are, and to know what resources are available, what activities have been canceled or rescheduled, and how we can adjust our lives to further ensure our safety. With so many people avoiding public interaction to protect ourselves and our neighbors, local public radio is the ideal source of accurate news and information available over the air and online.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of public radio to Alaskans. Please fund this vital organization - Alaskan lives will depend upon it.

Thank you for your time - and for your efforts on our behalf. We truly appreciate what you do.

Sincerely,

Donna Goldsmith

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Suzanne Vuillet-Smith [mailto:svuillet@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 11:32 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Funding for public radio

Now more than ever the am state legislature must act to find public radio in Alaska and satellite locations. 2 million rather than 1 million will ensure that Alaskans will stay as informed, safe, and as updated as possible for the next 18 months, which is the US estimate on approximately how long we will be affected by it.

Please note that our local station, khns, has been the only tool available to our borough officials and the governor himself to keep us all updated on fast changing closures, policies, and protective measures to take. Newspapers and on line only outlets and tv news is old, not available to all and far to general(based out of larger cities) to help the residents of the upper Lynn canal take the precautions needed to stay safe and keep each other healthy. Public radio, now more than ever, is critical to health and safety state wide. Three times daily we are all able to tune in and listen to the mayor's of haines and embassy provide us with essential information. Please support Alaskans! Sincerely, Suzanne vuillet-smith, p.o. Box 5 haines ak 99827 cell 907 303 9334

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Hilary A Hardwick [hilary.hardwick@alaska.gov](mailto:hilary.hardwick@alaska.gov)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 11:40 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support of and increase to Public Radio in budget

Dear Finance Committee,

Please vote in favor of keeping the proposed amounts in the budget for Public Radio. This service is essential to all of us as at least one viable and reliable source of "actual and real" news. Especially in this period of time with so much misinformation and fake news and reports, we need an honest, non-political source for information. It is one of the most critical services we have and it needs to be maintained and even increased if possible. I urge you to make sure Public Radio is funded and supported in the budget. Thank you!

Hilary Hardwick, Anchorage resident and a concerned citizen

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Andrew Hartsig   
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support for Public Radio

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

I write to urge you to support at least the current level of proposed funding for public radio—\$1 million—as you consider the budget today. Public radio is critically important to many communities in Alaska. Now, as we're in the midst of a pandemic, it is more important than ever as a source of accurate news and information on the global, national, state and local levels.

I urge you to consider increased funding for public radio in the budget. If that's not possible, I hope you will support the proposed funding of \$1 million for public radio.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Hartsig

Andrew Hartsig  
1775 Morningtide Ct.  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 229-1690

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** T L [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please support full funding for public radio and television

I am writing to ask your support for to restore full funding for public radio and television. The value of public media in providing accurate and up-to-date information about health, safety, and public services has been very evident during the recent COVID-19 crisis. Public media is my most trusted and reliable source for this information.

These are services that impact my family everyday, just like other Alaskan families across our state.

My grandchildren have access to valuable educational programs every day through PBS Kids, while my partner, adult children and I rely on news and cultural programming via public radio broadcasts, online streaming, and PBS.

It is particularly important to us to hear Native voices, Native perspectives, and rural concerns through programs like National Native News, Native America Calling, Indigefi, and Alaska News Nightly.

While the support cut from the state budget for public broadcasting is relatively small as a line item, it has had an enormous impact for the state. Alaskans receive a great "bang for their buck" with programming and public safety services. My family, and many other Alaskan families, will thank you for restoring full funding for public radio and television.

Thea Lawton  
8420 E. 10th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99504

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Larri Spengler ~~lspengler@alaska.net~~  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:09 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** please fully fund public radio

Greetings —

The key role of public radio to Alaskans' health and safety could not be more clear, in this time of cover-19.

Please fund it at least to the extent of the \$1 million proposed in the budget for public radio and \$879,500 for satellite communications.

But ideally, please increase that!

Thank you.

**Larri Spengler**

Larri Irene Spengler  
4545 Thane Road  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
907-586-9768 (phone/fax)  
[lspengler@ak.net](mailto:lspengler@ak.net)



**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Debra Call ~~edwards@alaska.gov~~  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Jaclyn Sallee  
**Subject:** Public radio funding

The purpose of this email is to ask your support for public radio in the amount of \$1 million as proposed in the budget.

In these turbulent times — all it takes is a natural disaster such as an earthquake now - to put all Alaskans at more risk. Please think of the communication channels we will need! Support our current public radio infrastructure by protecting it now for families in rural and urban Alaska.

We are depending on you. Thank you.

Deb Call  
10100 Schneiter circle  
Anchorage, Ak 99507

Sent from my iPhone 907-306-3689

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** public media funding

To the Alaska State Senate Finance committee,

I am writing to encourage you to keep the funds allocated in the budget for public radio and satellite communications, and to even increase those amounts for these valuable programs.

The current COVID 19 pandemic has demonstrated how critical local and state public media stations are for providing accurate information about the public health emergency, resources available in our communities and in the State of Alaska, as well as up-to-date information regarding what has been canceled or rescheduled.

With so many people staying home, local public radio is the ideal source of accurate news and information available over the air or online.

Please do all you can to ensure that this valuable service can be maintained throughout the State.

Thank you,  
Russ Lyman  
890 Oslund Dr.  
Haines, AK 99827

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** ██████████  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:16 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SUPPORT AK PUBLIC MEDIA

Dear Legislators.  
Thank You for being there, for working to address all of the critical issues in Alaska.

We are learning that the Republican mantra of

1. **less government,**
2. all Isolationist political thinking, and
3. all power and responsibility belonging to the individual

is built on sinking sand in the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Good Extensive Government is absolutely necessary,
2. Alaska is part of the World and cannot function, as the USA cannot function, without global connections.
3. Likewise the virus respects no class, no individual, from the 1% to the homeless, in its spread and lethality.

So along with flattening the curve of outdated, irrelevant thought in the political universe, you need to forge entirely new directions.

One of the first steps is to not only fund the budget requests by AK Public Media, **but to increase them!** Ak Public Media offers intelligent analysis, the best of primary, secondary, and post-graduate educational opportunities in its programming, the best of drama, mystery, news reporting, meaningful historical narratives that enlighten us, and the list goes on and on. It is the most essential connection to communities "off the grid." AK Public Media alone offers candidates running for office the chance to fully address voters so that fair evaluations regarding fitness for office can be made.

I plead with you to embrace AK Public Media with all they request, and then some. Please take a big picture perspective that extends beyond the next election cycle. Please recognize the critical irreplaceable role AK Public Media offers EVERYONE in Alaska. This state and this country desperately need FACT-based, rational, apolitical information and care that includes AK Public Media.

Thank You!  
Lorene Atrops  
Eagle River, Alaska

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Karl Hulse <KHulse@crweng.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:20 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Finance Committee Hearing - Public Testimony - Public Radio Funding

I am writing to encourage the finance committee to approve or increase the current budget amounts for public radio (\$1-million) and satellite communications (\$879,500). Public radio is an essential service for the residents of Alaska, especially during emergencies such as the current Coronavirus outbreak.

Thank you.

**Karl Hulse**  
Principal/Civil and Environmental Engineer  
CRW Engineering Group, LLC  
3940 Arctic Blvd, Ste. 300  
Anchorage AK 99503  
Office 907-562-3252 | Direct 907-646-5621  
[www.crweng.com](http://www.crweng.com)

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** gail kaliss [gail.kaliss@alaska.gov](mailto:gail.kaliss@alaska.gov)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:22 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please fund Alaska Public Media - We need them in this emergency

In the current Coronavirus healthcare emergency, Alaska citizens in every community especially need to have access to the information provided by Alaska Public Media.

We understand that currently \$1 million has been proposed in the budget for public radio and \$879,500 for satellite communications. That is the *minimum* you should think of providing for this vital service. The importance of public broadcasting in Alaska argues for a much more robust commitment to support of both the radio and television productions of Alaska Public Media.

Before retiring to Anchorage, We lived a number of years in Barrow/Utqiagvik, and experienced how important the KBRW local and national news was in keeping the community in touch with important events. In addition to news, we enjoyed local programming such as the Birthday program and national entertainment such as Prairie Home Companion. It connected us to our neighbors, expanded our horizons, and tied us to the world around us.

We have long been viewers of the PBS NewsHour, and lately have enjoyed the access to Molly of Denali, as well as local programming.

Please fund Alaska Public Media as fully and comprehensively as possible. You will be helping to fight Coronavirus in the process!

Sincerely,  
Gail and Anthony Kaliss  
Anchorage

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** proposed \$1 million budget for public radio and \$879,500 for satellite communications

I absolutely support at a minimum the proposed \$1 million budget for public radio and \$879,500 for satellite communications. Every day I trust that their high-quality journalism will keep me informed on important current events. The current health crisis is a perfect example that public radio is invaluable in providing accurate and up-to-date information to Alaskans. Please support public radio for Alaskans.

Michele Masuda  
Juneau, AK

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Angelika Harder [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:27 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** AK Public Media

Dear Committee Members

In light of current fiscal challenges that the State of Alaska is facing, it may be prudent to reduce State contributions to non-profits like AK Public Media.

I would further encourage the committee to consider a financial audit of all departments and semi-state entities to determine the true availability of funds to the State.

Respectfully

Angelika Harder

Eagle River

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** W Rice [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:35 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public media support

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing in support of a full funding of Alaskan Public Media. Experts in epidemiology have repeatedly told us that the most effective way to fight the Covid-19 pandemic is with honest, transparent news and advice. For those of us who do not rely on Facebook, with its rumors and misrepresentations, and avoid Fox News and CNN because of their political spin, Public Media is Alaska's best source of the information that we need to work through the health and economic problems that we now face. We get honest and unbiased information that will be the underpinnings of our way out of the current crisis. Funding Public Media is the best way to make sure that we are basing our actions on accurate and comprehensive news. Please include the full amount of the budget request in your final bill

Wilson Rice



**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Tony DeGange [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:53 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Funding appropriation for Public Radio

Please support a generous appropriation for Public Radio in Alaska. I financially support public radio in Alaska and the State of Alaska should too. It is wonderful for local and national news and with the coronavirus pandemic now is when we need unfettered and unbiased news that speaks the truth. Please support Public Radio and double down to deal with the fiscal crisis in a responsible manner.

Sincerely, Anthony DeGange

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** William Saltonstall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:47 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support Public Broadcasting

Please continue to support Public Broadcasting. It is one of my two main sources of news and information. Even more important than usual during this healthcare emergency.

Thanks and regards.

Will Saltonstall  
16920 Tideview Dr.  
Anchorage, Alaska  
99516

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Jayne Johnson [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:50 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Funding of Public Radio

Hello, I would like to urge the Alaska Legislature to fund my beloved Public Radio! I rarely listen to any other channel and depend on 91.1 for accurate and fair reporting of the news. I also love many of the "shows" they have, such as Fresh Air, Wait Wait Don't Tell Me, All Things Considered, Market Place, Here & Now, and the awesome Moth Radio Hour and Radio Lab. Can't even imagine life without them. Please, please fund my favorite radio channel. Thank you!

Jayne Johnson  
PO Box 770797  
Eagle River, AK 99577  
907-406-6642

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** John Meyn [mailto:johnmeyn47@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:58 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Alaska public communications

All members of Congress please support the current bill that allows \$1 million to be put toward public communications 897,000 to go towards other activities with communications this is a needed budget item that will make people's lives much easier and better throughout Alaska sincerely, john meyn

Sent from my iPhone

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Jack Oudiz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 12:04 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** HB 205

I am writing to urge passage of HB 205 to provide funding for AK public radio. I am a 10 year volunteer at Homer's station KBBI and I know first hand the importance of the station to our community. That importance has never been clearer or more urgent than during the present pandemic crisis. Alaska presents unique challenges to rural communities throughout the state as they struggle to maintain a sense of attachment to the rest of the state and nation but to maintain their own sense of shared community through communication. Please consider increasing the allocated funds presently inscribed in HB 205. It is an investment in AK's well being that will pay ample dividends for years to come.

Respectfully,  
Jack Oudiz  
PO Box 15232  
Fritz Creek, AK 99603  
907-299-4192

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Christine DeCourtney [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public media funding.

I am writing from Nikiski to urge you to fully support public media for Alaska. While in other parts of the U.S., there are many media choices, there are fewer in Alaska. When I lived in Dillingham, Alaska, public radio was critical for news, safety, community postings, etc. It was and still is the most trusted and balanced medium.

While there are other choices now in Alaska with Internet connections, not everyone has access to the Internet. There must be one critical medium for the all too frequent weather, environmental, and human crises that affect Alaskans. This is public media. I cannot state the importance of this enough. Statewide coverage and local coverage from a trustworthy source is critical for Alaskans' decision making.

Please fully support funding of public media for Alaska.

Christine DeCourtney  
PO Box 7134  
Nikiski, AK 99635  
907.250.8203

## Doniece Gott

---

**From:** Leila Kheiry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:12 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State budget priorities

To the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to let you know about the importance of public radio to rural Alaska, including our listening area, which includes Ketchikan, Saxman, Metlakatla and much of Prince of Wales Island.

Thank you, also, for your past and continued support of state funding for public media. You understand that public radio is often the only source of local, state and national news for Alaska's isolated communities.

Now, especially, our listeners depend on us for up-to-the-minute reports about the pandemic, including government response. We have carried national, state and local briefings live numerous times in the last couple of weeks, and our one reporter is working more overtime than ever to keep the public informed about the local response.

Ketchikan had its first case of Covid 19 confirmed late yesterday. We had a news story online very quickly, and on the air just before and after the governor's live briefing last night. We have a continuously updated list of closures and cancellations on our website, which is a hub of information for our listeners on almost everything — not just pandemic news.

And during all this, I anticipate that, despite our constant efforts, our fundraising will plummet. The economic hit to our communities will mean less money for residents to donate to their public radio stations; and less money for businesses to underwrite. We are a critical state resource for disseminating information in all kinds of emergencies, and it is worthwhile for the state to provide funding for this service.

We are grateful that the legislature has added some funding for public media to the budget. Please be assured that the funding will be well used and always in the service of the public.

Thank you

Leila Kheiry, General Manager, KRBD Community Radio