

RESOLUTION #674

**SUPPORTING STATE FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION AND KYUK RADIO AND TELEVISION**

WHEREAS, public radio and television service provides vital life and safety to remote areas of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, KYUK radio and television in Bethel offers the only regional broadcast news and information service--ranging from the emergency broadcast service to local news programs and specials to "The Tundra Drums" message service--to a majority of residents in the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta; and

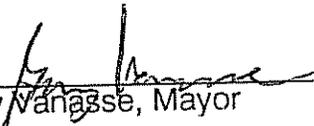
WHEREAS, KYUK has reduced operating costs to the point where additional reductions in the level of state funding will result in elimination of vital and timely public services to residents who would not otherwise have access to important information; and

WHEREAS, the capacity for increasing local financial support to replace state funding for KYUK is limited at best.

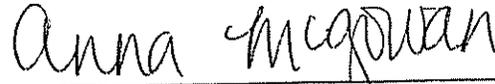
BE IT RESOLVED, the Bethel City Council respectfully urges Governor Hickel, Alaska Department of Administration Commissioner Keller and the Alaska State Legislature carefully consider potential impacts to public broadcasting programs and services resulting from reductions in the level of state funding to the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission; and

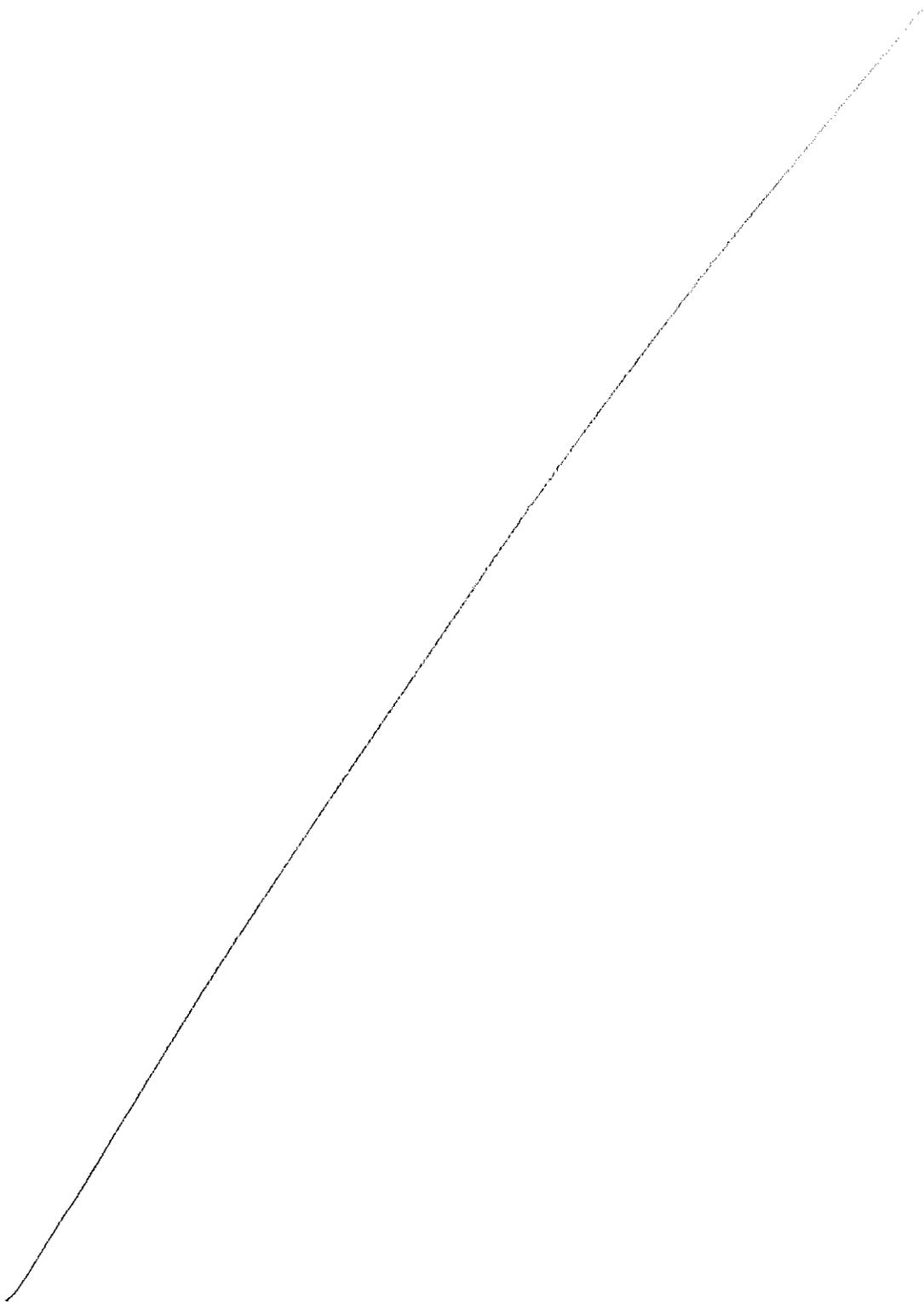
FURTHER, make every effort to ensure that the delivery of public radio and television services, particularly in those areas of the state that do not have alternative information and news broadcast services, are not adversely impacted.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24 DAY OF March, 1990. <sup>1991</sup>

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Vanasse, Mayor

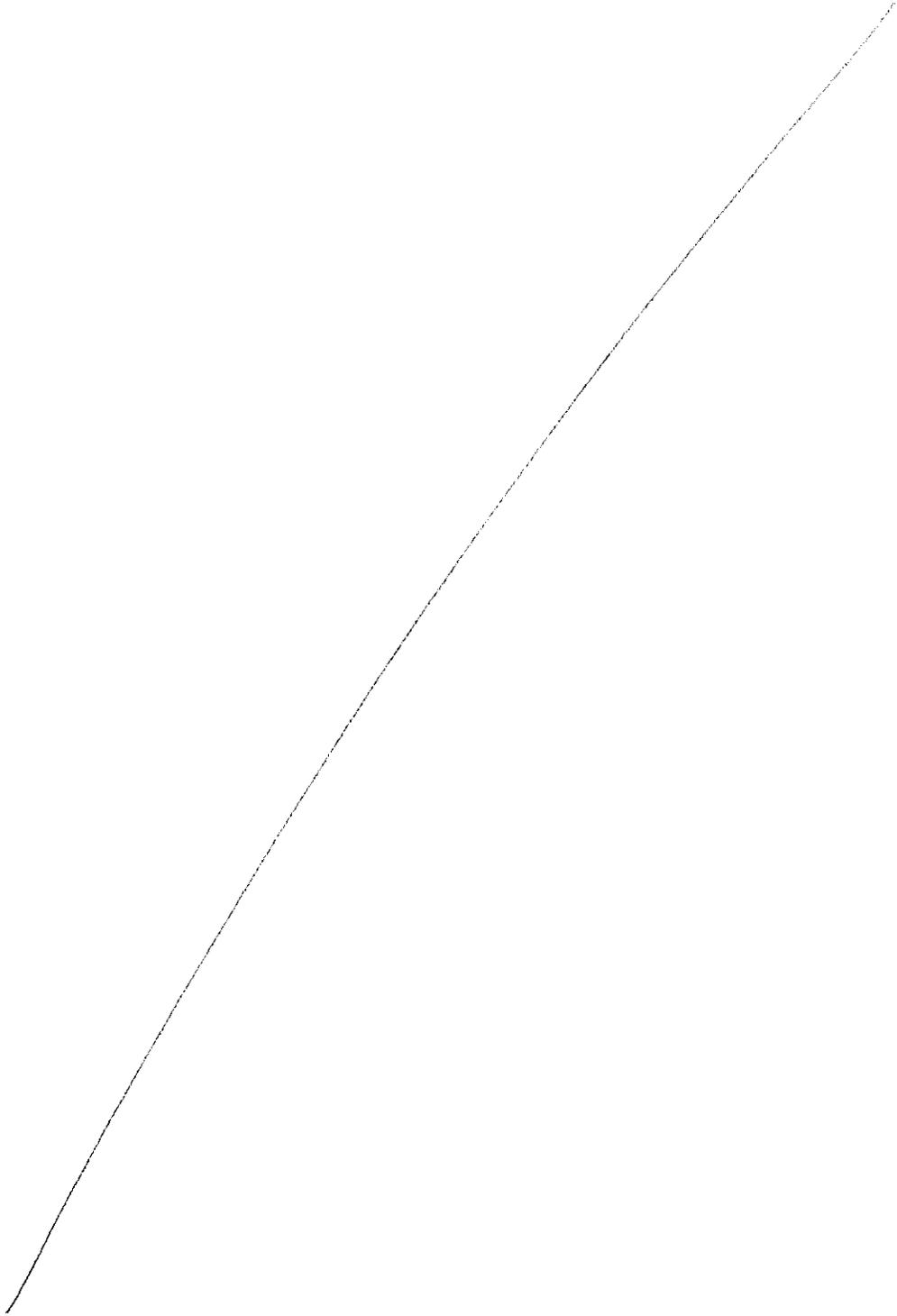
ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anna McGowan, City Clerk



**KYUK FUNDING PACKET**

THIS PACKET IS A COMBINATION OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, STATION HISTORIES, KYUK INFORMATION, ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION FACT SHEETS, AND JUNEAU ADDRESSES.



Dear Member:

Here is information on KYUK AM/TV and how 1. we would deal with a 30% cut, and 2. a 100% cut.

1. KYUK AM: The radio station is already running on bare minimum staffing, and if it wasn't for sharing the building with TV, and TV paying for the news department and engineering, KYUK AM would be in even rougher shape. A 30% cut, (80.3) in radio on the surface could be dealt with by eliminating some network program sources, NPR, and APRN. KYUK AM would still be able to qualify for its CSG, but it would also be lowered. If the radio station only (not TV) received a 30% cut, The station as a whole, could survive.

KYUK-TV: A 30% cut (195.6) in TV would be the big blow. TV funds support the whole building. Heat, electricity, news department, and engineering are supported by television. Bethel Broadcasting operates both the TV and radio station and each supports the other. KYUK TV would still qualify for CSG support, although diminished. If both AM and TV took a 30% cut, services from both would quickly erode. In the end KYUK TV would become a translator for PBS, thus moving us far away from our mission statement of local and bilingual programming, and KYUK AM would also shrink to a music station with very little national, state or local news and programming.

An across the board 30% cut could lower funding to a point that keeping a local TV station going only as a PBS repeater while supporting the building may not be practical. Basic positions would survive, but the news and production departments would be eliminated. Local funds, already hard to obtain in a small community, would totally dry up with no local production or news. If the radio station was left, it would have to move to a new smaller building, but do without the national programming, and a local news department and engineering support.

2. If state grant funds were eliminated, both KYUK AM and TV would no longer qualify for federal funds. Bethel is not a large enough community to support either stations.

KYUK AM and TV are both important and unique in the state. We serve the largest bilingual audience, and although we are in a city, we have no peers. Our news department is the only source of local news on the airwaves, and our production department competes with no commercial production houses. KYUK is here to help preserve a culture, and keep the viewers and listeners informed and educated about local and national events and issues. KYUK AM/TV are the Primary EBS stations for Western Alaska.

I hope this helps you. These are hard questions and the answers are optimistic. Once the ball gets rolling it can take some unexpected bounces.

Sincerely,

John A. McDonald  
General Manager  
KYUK AM/TV

## APBC CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST PRIORITIES - FY'92

The APBC is requesting a total of 8,785.3 in capital funds for FY '92. Of that total, the Commission has designated 4,401.2 as urgently needed, and the remaining 4,384.1 as necessary. All of the projects are listed below, by station and location; radio stations are listed first, then television, then repeaters, translators and other facilities. The listing is not intended to show any sort of priority ranking. The only priorities the Commission has chosen to set are the two categories of "urgently needed" and "necessary." The individual station grantees or the APBC office can provide additional detail on any of the projects.

<u>Radio Stations</u> (listed alphabetically)	<u>Urgently Needed</u>	<u>Necessary</u>
KSKA-FM, Anchorage	Building Purchase 350.0; Signal Improvement 47.5.	Production Equipment 51.2; Emergency Power System 47.0; Equipment Replacement 65.6
KBRW-AM, Barrow	Coverage Extension 153.3.	Field Production 32.9; Emergency Power 71.5; Building Improvements 15.6; Equipment Replacement 92.1
KYUK-AM, Bethel	Modular Building Purchase 55.0; Waste Heat Utilization 102.0.	Equipment Replacement 42.3
KDLG-AM, Dillingham	Studio Building Construction 416.0.	Shelter for Emergency Power Generator 50.0; Equipment Replacement 36.1.
KUAC-FM, Fairbanks	Equipment Replacement matching funds, non-federal match 28.0.	Planning for new Radio/TV studio building, matching funds, radio share 25.0; Equipment Replacement Backlog 88.1
KHNS-FM, Haines	Transmitter Remote Control System 4.5; Satellite Demodulators 6.0.	Emergency Power Generators 17.0; STL 7.0; Equipment Replacement 76.2
KBBI-AM, Homer	Emergency Power 16.3; Studio Relocation Completion 60.0	Production and Engineering Equipment 37.0; Equipment Replacement 26.6
KTOO-FM, Juneau	Emergency Power Interconnect 15.0; Radio Studio Reconstruction 142.1; New Transmitter Plant Study 14.3.	Heating and Ventilation Improvements 35.0; Equipment Replacement 105.1
KRBD-FM, Ketchikan	Building Purchase/Construction 400.0	Production and Engineering Equipment 34.1; Equipment Replacement 52.1
KMXT-FM, Kodiak	Purchase or construct new building 284.0.	Equipment Replacement 72.7
KOTZ-AM, Kotzebue	Emergency Power Generator 17.5; Studio Building Remodeling 78.0.	Program Automation Equipment 40.0; Multitrack Production Equipment 15.8; Equipment Replacement 30.6
KSKO-AM, McGrath	Bulk Fuel Storage Facilities 25.0	Equipment Replacement 45.4
KFSK-FM, Petersburg	New Tower Construction 35.0; Engineering and Production Equipment 12.2.	Translators 15.0; Equipment Replacement 47.3.
KCAW-FM, Sitka	Completion of new studio construction/relocation 400.0	Production Equipment Upgrade 10.0; Equipment Replacement 67.0.
KCHU-AM, Valdez	Signal Improvement 81.0.	Building Purchase 350.0.
KSTK-FM Wrangell	Audio Distribution Upgrade and Fax Machine 9.1	

**APBC CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST PRIORITIES** (continued)

<u>PTV Stations</u> (listed alphabetically)	<u>Urgently Needed</u>	<u>Necessary</u>
KAKM-TV, Anchorage	Equipment Replacement 500.0.	Equipment Replacement Backlog 424.6
KYUK-TV, Bethel	Roof repair and building renovation 75.0.	Equipment Replacement Backlog 262.9
KUAC-TV, Fairbanks	Engineering and production equipment 99.0.	Develop plan for new radio/TV studio building--TV share 25.0; Equipment Replacement Backlog 273.5
KTOO-TV, Juneau	Emergency Power interconnect, TV share 15.0; Sitka TV Translator 55.0; Equipment Replacement 300.0.	Heating, ventilation and A/C system 70.0; Control room rebuilds 305.0; Remote production van 205.0; TSL 28.3; Equipment Replacement backlog 490.1
 <b><u>Other and New Starts</u></b> (listed alphabetically)		
AIRRES, Anchorage	Statewide distribution of Radio Reading Service 72.0.	
APRN, Anchorage	Building Purchase/Completion 77.0; Newsroom workstations and telephone system upgrade 48.0; Portable Uplink for APRN 32.5.	Repeater Station Downlink Construction 48.0; Equipment Replacement 12.7
KCUK-FM, Chevak	Remote Control Upgrade 4.5	
Fort Yukon Repeater	Construct New Station 147.9.	
KYU-AM, Galena	Equipment Replacement 11.8.	Power Line Extension 184.9; Remote Control Upgrade 4.5.
KCZP-FM, Kenai	Remote Control Upgrade 4.5.	
KSDP-AM, Sand Point	Transmitter Building 25.0; Remote Control Upgrade 4.5.	Generator Shelter 25.0; Equipment Replacement 16.6
KUHB-FM, St. Paul	Remote Control Upgrade 4.5.	
Seward Repeater	Repeater Activation 22.0.	Remote Control Upgrade 2.0.
Talkeetna Repeater	New Station Construction 46.7.	
KNSA-AM, Unalakleet	Remote Control Upgrade 4.5.	Remote Broadcast Equipment 6.7.
Unalaska Repeater	Construct new transmitter plant 100.0	
APBC Statewide		One AM and one FM Repeater Station to be constructed at undetermined locations 298.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Total 4,401.2</b>	<b>Total 4,384.1</b>

Total Capital Projects, FY'92 = 8,785.3

ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION  
FY 92 Operating Budget Request Summary

TOTAL APBC OPERATING BUDGET

Governor's Recommendation	\$5,347.8
Original APBC Request	\$10,048.3
Current Year (FY 91)	\$ 7,533.0

Station Grants (96% of APBC funds flow directly to local stations)

Governor's Recommendation	\$5,004.7
Original APBC Request	\$ 9,692.5
Current Year (FY 91)	\$ 7,187.2

**IMPACT OF PROPOSED 30% REDUCTION IN APBC FUNDS** - The APBC has not had the opportunity to meet since the cuts were proposed. The following is clear, however, from comments from the Chair and informal polling of the Commission: the reduction, if spread equally among all grantees would force over half below the threshold which qualifies them for Federal funds, which could cause the elimination of over half the system. Therefore, the Commission would likely select one of the following options in order to preserve the maximum number of stations and the maximum amount of non-state revenue. None of these options is favored by the APBC, which continues to support its original request. (1) Eliminate all State support for public television, which would allow the radio system to remain much as it is now (some reductions would occur there, as well); (2) Eliminate all state support for 6 to 8 public radio stations, including some repeater stations, which would allow public television and the remaining 8-10 radio stations and some repeaters to continue; (3) some combination of the two main options - perhaps eliminating all repeaters to preserve the maximum number of full-service stations. No State support for public TV would force all four public TV stations off the air - 3 immediately, one within 2 years. Elimination of State support for 6 to 8 public radio stations would force those stations off the air. Loss of State support for repeaters would cause the elimination of the only radio service in several remote locations and the loss of statewide availability of a reader service for the blind.

The APBC Request consists of current amounts, plus the following increments; in descending priority order (see reverse for how each station's grant would be allocated):

- 1. MAINTAIN CRISIS RESPONSE/STATEWIDE COVERAGE (1,179.6)** - While APBC received a \$408.0 increase in state funds in FY 91, the Public Broadcasting System, in the APBC's view, remains near collapse. Grants to existing grantees are 20% below actual dollar levels received in FY 86. Inflation has made that figure closer to 40%. Four public radio stations still cannot afford NPR programming, three of the four public television stations cannot afford to buy the entire PBS schedule available to the rest of the television stations in the country. Local program origination continues at levels below acceptable levels. Federal funding losses in FY 91 will probably exceed the amount of the state increase.  
There is a general perception that public broadcasting is "nice, but not necessary." The system is often compared unfavorably with needs for roads, water, sewers, etc. There is, however, an absolute necessity for Alaska's Public Broadcasting System in times of crisis. When flood waters are rising; when earthquakes occur; when tsunami warnings are being issued; when oil begins to spill; when major governmental actions are being contemplated and citizens must be informed - nothing is more important than the information public broadcasting can provide. A fully operational system needs to be in place, providing 18 to 24 hour-a-day broadcasting, with news and information staffs at the ready, so that any sudden event can be covered and communicated to every citizen. Public broadcasting does provide music programming, drama, even comedy. But those programs are necessary in order to provide a full-time service to which the public can turn when a crisis occurs. The system must also be funded so that translators and repeaters broadcasting in remote areas can continue to function. Similarly, all repeater stations should be staffed to provide at least a minimum of local coverage capability. Finally, the training of Alaskan Native personnel for full-service stations and repeaters is directly related to the system's ability to provide meaningful service to every community, regardless of language and culture. In order for Public Broadcasting to remain fit and able to respond to various crisis situations and problems and in order to provide true statewide coverage, this increment is vital.
- 2. EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT (700.2)** - An FY 91 capital appropriation provided some equipment replacement funding to the APBC. Of the total equipment replacement need of 4,372.4, the FY 91 amount allowed the APBC to replace 22.45% of that equipment. A large balance of equipment needs remains. In addition, during FY 92, additional pieces of equipment at grantee stations will reach the end of their useful life and require replacement. This increment will provide the funds for the replacement of only those pieces of equipment which will reach the end of their useful life in FY 92. Equipment replacement is a critical issue at many grantee stations. If items of equipment are not replaced as they reach the end of their useful life, deterioration and eventual cessation of local programming and broadcast services will result. The APBC keeps complete inventories on all station equipment. These inventories are analyzed, using life cycle costing data derived from the Public Broadcasting Services's engineering committee and other industry sources.
- 3. PARTIALLY RESTORE LOST SERVICE (625.5)** - During FY 84-86, the public broadcasting system in Alaska ranked among the top such systems in the nation. It received national acclaim and was held up as an example of how to most effectively use public broadcasting in meeting a wide variety of public needs. Since FY 86, public broadcast grantees in Alaska have lost over 21% of their funding through State budget cuts. Increments 1 & 2 being proposed by the APBC will do little more than arrest the decline in services being provided by these stations. This increment would make a beginning at restoring some level of excellence to the public broadcasting system in Alaska. The Exxon Valdez oil spill in March 1989 proved to be one of Alaska public broadcasting's finest hours. The system responded to the crisis with in-depth, objective coverage which was utilized extensively both within Alaska and throughout the country. That event also showed how thin the public broadcasting system has become. Without a substantial supplemental appropriation, some public stations would have become bankrupt as a result of the extraordinary coverage they had no alternative but to provide. This increment will help provide the kind of support that will allow the system to provide such coverage, without the need for supplemental appropriations.

APBC Internal (Administrative) Budget

Governor's Recommendation	343.1
Original APBC Request	355.8

(Over \$80,000 [20%] of the requested funds will be spent on direct services to stations: accounting services, legal and technical assistance, and in-service training for station staffs and boards.)

**APBC PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS FOR FY 92**

GRANT APPLICANTS	FY 92 BASE	(see other side for description of each)			TOTAL	
		Proposed 30% cut	INCRE #1	INCRE #2		INCRE #3
KSKA FM, Anchorage	224.7		22.5	13.8	12.3	273.3
KBRW AM, Barrow	259.6		26.0	37.0	17.5	340.1
KYUK AM, Bethel	264.6		26.5	14.4	0.0	305.5
KDLG AM, Dillingham	231.3		23.1	28.1	21.8	304.3
KUAC FM, Fairbanks	164.7		24.7	48.4	19.4	257.2
KHNS FM, Haines	222.7		22.3	13.7	4.5	263.2
KBBI AM, Homer	224.1		22.4	9.9	24.7	281.1
KTOO FM, Juneau	304.9		30.5	32.7	36.5	404.6
KRBD FM, Ketchikan	292.9		29.3	4.7	35.0	361.9
KMXT FM, Kodiak	244.4		24.4	30.4	0.0	299.2
KOTZ AM, Kotzebue	299.7		30.0	14.5	0.0	344.2
KSKO AM, McGrath	320.9		32.1	1.0	0.0	354.0
KFSK FM, Petersburg	219.8		22.0	24.4	0.0	266.2
KCAW FM, Sitka	272.8		27.3	9.8	10.2	320.1
KCHU AM, Valdez	243.0		24.3	0.0	15.7	283.0
KSTK FM, Wrangell	224.4		22.4	35.4	0.0	282.2
KAKM TV, Anchorage	711.5		71.2	53.7	0.0	836.4
KYUK TV, Bethel	644.1		64.4	95.8	0.0	804.3
KUAC TV, Fairbanks	384.3		57.6	191.7	26.9	660.5
KTOO TV, Juneau	670.8		67.1	31.9	80.2	850.0
AIRRES, Anchorage	65.1		9.9	0.0	3.6	78.6
KCUK FM, Chevak	64.6		10.4	0.0	25.0	100.0
TRANS, Ft. Yukon	0.0		75.0	0.0	25.0	100.0
KIYU AM, Galena	78.7		7.9	0.0	13.4	100.0
KTOO TV, Juneau/SE microwave	340.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	340.0
KCZP FM, Kenai/Soldotna	12.9		1.3	0.0	3.8	18.0
KSDP AM, Sand Point	67.9		7.1	1.1	25.0	101.1
TRANS, Seward	17.3		7.7	0.0	25.0	50.0
KUHB FM, St. Paul	60.5		14.5	0.0	25.0	100.0
TRANS, Talkeetna	0.0		75.0	0.0	25.0	100.0
KNSA AM, Unalakleet	0.0		75.0	0.0	25.0	100.0
KIAL AM, Unalaska	0.0		25.0	0.0	25.0	50.0
Training Grants	55.1		35.7	0.0	0.0	90.8
Contingency	0.0		40.0	0.0	0.0	40.0
PTv Prod. Statewide	0.0		0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
APRN, Anchorage	0.0		0.0	7.8	0.0	7.8
AK Native Fellowship	0.0		125.0	0.0	0.0	125.0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7,187.2</b>	<b>(2,182.5)</b>	<b>1,179.6</b>	<b>700.2</b>	<b>625.5</b>	<b>9,656.5</b>

**HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF APBC OPERATING GRANTS**

Grantee	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90*	FY 91*
KSKA FM, Anchorage	247.3	274.1	237.8	214.1	214.1	212.0	224.7
KBRW AM, Barrow	303.0	316.5	274.6	247.3	247.3	244.8	259.6
KYUK AM, Bethel	309.0	322.7	280.0	252.1	252.1	249.6	264.6
KDLG AM, Dillingham	258.3	282.1	244.8	220.4	220.4	218.2	231.3
KUAC FM, Fairbanks	0.0	0.0	0.0	156.9	156.9	155.3	164.7
KHNS FM, Haines	247.3	272.2	236.2	219.9	212.2	210.1	222.7
KBBI AM, Homer	252.2	273.3	237.1	213.5	213.5	211.4	224.1
KTOO FM, Juneau	371.9	371.9	322.6	290.5	290.5	287.6	304.9
KRBD FM, Ketchikan	357.2	357.2	309.9	279.1	279.1	276.3	292.9
KMXT FM, Kodiak	279.7	298.0	258.5	232.8	232.8	230.5	244.4
KOTZ AM, Kotzebue	352.7	365.4	317.0	285.5	285.5	282.6	299.7
KSKO AM, McGrath	391.3	391.3	339.5	305.7	305.7	302.6	320.9
KFSK FM, Petersburg	256.6	268.0	232.5	209.4	209.4	207.3	219.8
KCAW FM, Sitka	299.9	310.2	269.1	242.4	242.4	240.0	272.8
KCHU AM, Valdez	10.4	10.3	26.1	190.5	231.5	229.2	243.0
KSTK FM, Wrangell	262.1	273.7	237.4	213.8	213.8	211.7	224.4
KAKM TV, Anchorage	833.7	867.8	752.8	677.9	677.9	671.1	711.5
KYUK TV, Bethel	755.1	785.7	681.5	613.7	613.7	607.6	644.1
KUAC TV, Fairbanks	0.0	0.0	0.0	366.1	366.1	362.4	384.3
KTOO TV, Juneau	786.0	818.1	709.7	639.1	684.1	677.3	670.8
AIRRES, Anchorage	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	62.0	61.4	65.1
KCUK FM, Chevak	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.0	45.0	44.6	64.6
TRANS, Ft. Yukon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
KIYU AM, Galena	75.0	78.7	66.9	76.5	76.5	75.7	78.7
KTOO TV, Juneau/SE Microwave	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	340.0	336.6	340.0
KCZP FM, Kenai	0.0	16.0	12.0	12.3	12.3	12.2	12.9
KSDP AM, Sand Point	85.4	84.3	71.7	64.7	64.7	64.1	67.9
TRANS, Seward	0.0	36.5	18.3	16.5	16.5	16.3	17.3
KUHB FM, St. Paul	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.5	60.5	59.9	60.5
TRANS, Talkeetna	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
KNSA AM, Unalakleet	75.9	79.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
KIAL AM, Unalaska	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Training	0.0	0.0	18.0	0.0	21.2	20.8	55.1
Contingency	42.0	0.0	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TV production Statewide	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>6,952.0</b>	<b>7,353.0</b>	<b>6,165.0</b>	<b>6,321.7**</b>	<b>6,847.7***</b>	<b>6,779.2</b>	<b>7,187.2</b>
Governor's Request	6,855.2	7,343.0	5,802.4	0.0	6,661.7	7,192.0	7,569.3
APBC Request	8,605.9	7,909.7	8,797.1	8,209.3	8,271.3	8,923.9	9,232.8

\* figures rounded to nearest hundred

\*\*The reason for the appearance of an increase is the transfer of KUAC funds from the University to the APBC budget.

\*\*\*The reason for the appearance of an increase is legislatively mandated increases for Chevak, Valdez, Juneau and St. Paul, plus the transfer of Southeast Microwave funds from the Division of Telecommunications. All others have the same or less funding than in FY 88.

**HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF APBC CAPITAL GRANTS**

GRANTEE	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91
KSKA FM, Anchorage	50.0				51.4	17.8	
KBRW AM, Barrow	89.0						
KYUK AM, Bethel		88.1	26.0			80.0	
KDLG AM, Dillingham	27.8		47.0				
KUAC FM, Fairbanks							
KHNS FM, Haines	5.0						
KBBI AM, Homer		135.3		150.0		90.0	
KTOO FM, Juneau		15.0					56.5
KRBD FM, Ketchikan	27.5		10.0	42.0		18.0	
KMXT FM, Kodiak	25.0		25.0				66.0
KOTZ AM, Kotzebue	119.0						
KSKO AM, McGrath		65.0					
KFSK FM, Petersburg	45.3		21.0	32.0		18.0	
KCAW FM, Sitka	7.0				17.1		
KCHU AM, Valdez	100.0		110.3	50.0		40.0	
KSTK FM, Wrangell		16.3	16.1	16.0		18.0	
KAKM TV, Anchorage	1,496.0		320.0				
KYUK TV, Bethel	75.0		100.5				
KUAC TV, Fairbanks						50.0	
KTOO TV, Juneau							
Statewide Equipment Replacement							1,000.0
APRN							323.8
AIRRES							
KCUK FM, Chevak							
TRANS, Ft. Yukon							
KYU AM, Galena							
KCZP FM, Kenai	55.0						
KSDP AM, Sand Point			29.4				
TRANS, Seward	38.0						
KUHB FM, St. Paul							
TRANS, Talkeetna							
KNSA AM, Unalakleet							
KIAL AM, Unalaska							
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>	<b>2,159.6</b>	<b>319.7</b>	<b>705.4</b>	<b>290.0</b>	<b>68.5</b>	<b>331.8</b>	<b>1,446.3</b>
Governor's Request each year	1,000.0	0.0	320.0	0	0	0	1,000.0
APBC Request each year	7,016.9	5,119.9	6,018.7	7,024.2	10,645.3	8,348.6	9,240.1

## IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT PUBLIC BROADCASTING IN ALASKA

### Public Broadcasting is Not a Frill

Public radio and television service provides vital life and safety services to remote areas of Alaska. It is the only communication service available to those areas. The urban component of public broadcasting provides service to unserved areas via translator systems and also is necessary in order for the rural stations to have information on commerce, economics and government to provide to all citizens.

### Public Broadcasting has Been Serving Alaskans Since 1962

The first public radio station in Alaska signed on in 1962. The first public television station began broadcasting in 1971. Public Broadcasting was a high priority and received State support prior to the influx of oil revenues. The Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (APBC) was formed in 1970, also well before the influx of oil income. Practically every agency of State government utilizes public broadcasting directly or indirectly to inform the public about its programs and policies.

### Alaskans Like, Want And Need Public Broadcasting

They provide it by the highest per capita donations in the nation; a high degree of volunteerism at stations; and the highest cumulative audiences enjoyed by public broadcasting anywhere in the nation.

### State Support Of Public Broadcasting Is Not Unusual

Forty-nine of the fifty states, Guam, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa provide support. Alaska's support is NOT unusually high. In fact, its level of support for public broadcasting has slipped from 10th to 16th among the states since 1986. A complete summary of State support is shown on the back of this page.

### State Support Of Public Broadcasting Is A Bargain

State funds spent on public broadcasting are matched by funds and other support raised by local stations. Total APBC funds spent on public broadcasting amounts to three-tenths of 1% of the general fund portion of the State's operating budget. Public broadcasting accomplishes its communication goals at such a small total cost to the State, because of local control and aggressive local and Federal fundraising on the part of grantees.

### The Bottom Line

In order for public broadcasting to continue its service to Alaska citizens, State funding needs to be continued at approximately 12% above current year levels. Public broadcasting is now operating at more than 21% below FY 86 levels. The current level of support for public broadcasting is 7187.2.2. Approximately \$3-million in Federal support will be lost to public broadcasting in Alaska unless funding continues at that or higher levels. The public broadcasting system is working on ideas for generating additional revenue. One such possibility is the institution of a lottery or game of chance with income to be used for the support of public broadcasting. The game could be conducted on public broadcasting's airwaves. Income from such a new funding possibility, however, could not be in place before July 1, 1992.

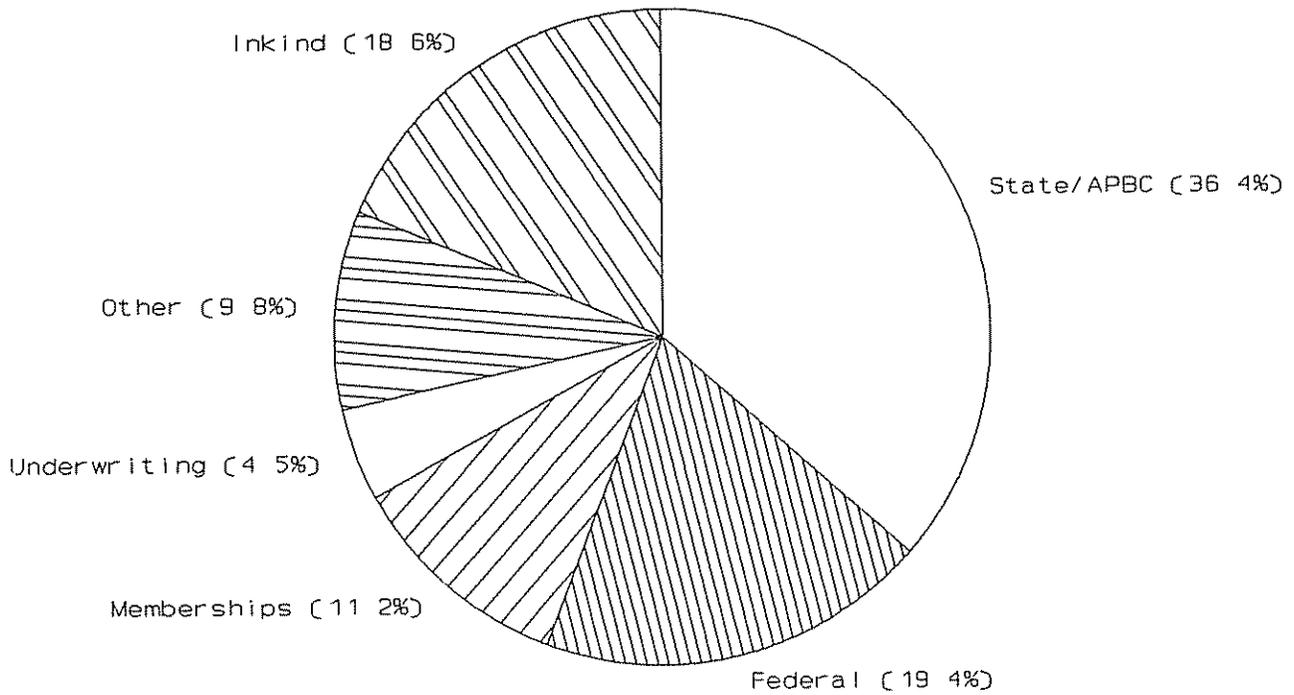
STATE SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING  
 (1989 Figures compiled by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting)  
 (Based on State Government, College and University Support)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Total State Support</u>
1	New York	29,127,867
2	South Carolina	28,676,694
3	Florida	19,357,968
4	Ohio	16,487,212
5	Pennsylvania	14,514,619
6	Maryland	13,253,288
7	New Jersey	12,978,236
8	Kentucky	12,342,154
9	Wisconsin	12,213,930
10	North Carolina	10,979,446
11	Georgia	10,891,294
12	Virginia	9,681,844
13	Iowa	9,378,326
14	Illinois	8,655,802
15	Michigan	8,258,163
*16	<b>Alaska</b>	<b>7,786,546</b>
17	Nebraska	7,283,005
18	Mississippi	6,327,013
19	Indiana	6,230,324
20	Tennessee	5,297,046
21	West Virginia	5,230,499
22	Arizona	5,101,095
23	Alabama	4,873,730
24	Hawaii	4,740,286
25	Louisiana	4,581,873
26	Oklahoma	4,330,415
27	Utah	3,913,819
28	Oregon	3,896,862
29	Connecticut	3,663,665
30	Puerto Rico	3,624,286
31	Texas	3,456,903
32	California	3,449,831
33	Washington	3,155,647
34	South Dakota	3,104,263
35	New Mexico	3,097,295
36	Minnesota	2,740,482
37	Arkansas	2,732,854
38	Idaho	2,713,539
39	Missouri	2,542,006
40	Maine	2,508,421
41	Kansas	2,120,212
42	New Hampshire	1,799,208
43	Massachusetts	1,777,453
44	Rhode Island	1,642,739
45	Vermont	1,361,294
**46	North Dakota	931,004
47	American Samoa	928,449
48	Colorado	797,779
49	Montana	469,905
50	Wyoming	376,529
51	Nevada	233,344
52	Guam	122,130
53	Virgin Islands	8,500
54	Delaware	0
55	D.C.	0

\* Alaska has dropped from 10th to 16th in level of State support since 1986.

\*\* Low level of State support due to State law that permits public TV to receive all net profits from casino gambling.

**ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION  
FY 91 FULL SERVICE STATION INCOME**



Actual dollars

State:	6,425.2
Federal:	3,414.2
Membership:	1,979.0
Underwriting:	799.8
Other:	1,723.9
In-Kind:	<u>3,285.7</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>17,627.8</b>

NOTE: State share is necessary in order for stations to receive Federal share. Without State or Federal share, no station would be able to survive. In fact, any reduction in State share puts majority of Federal share at risk.

**A. BC GRANT REDUCTIONS SINCE FY 86**

FY 87

1	FY 86 Grants:	7,253.0	
2	(Less)	(1,088.0)	<b>15% Reduction to all Grantees</b>
3	FY 87 Total	6,165.0	
4	Plus	17.8	Legislative add-on for Galena
5	New FY 87 Total	6,182.8	

FY 88

6	FY 87 Total	6,182.8	
7	(Less)	(17.8)	Legislative add-on for Galena
8	FY 87 adjusted total	6,165.0	
9	(Less)	(647.4)	<b>10.5% Reduction in Grants</b>
10		(29.0)	Training and Contingency
11	Plus	546.0	Transfer of Funds from UAF for KUAC, Fairbanks
12		198.9	Legislative add-on for Valdez
13		28.2	Legislative add-on for Chevak
14		45.0	Legislative add-on for St. Paul
15		15.0	Legislative add-on for Unalaska
16	FY 88 Total	6,321.7	

FY 89

17	FY 88 Total	6,321.7	
18	(Less)	(21.2)	One time Legislative add-ons
19	FY 88 adjusted total	6,300.5	
20	Plus	41.0	Legislative add-on for Valdez
21		18.0	Legislative add-on for Chevak
22		45.0	Legislative add-on for KTOO Juneau, equipment
23		20.0	Legislative add-on for St. Paul
24		62.0	Legislative add-on for AIRRES
25		340.0	Transfer of SE Microwave from Div. of Telecom
26		21.2	Training funds
27	FY 89 Total	6,847.7	

FY 90

28	FY 89 Total	6,847.7	
29	(Less)	(68.5)	<b>1% Reduction in Grants</b>
30	FY 90 Total	6,779.2	

FY 91

31	FY 90 Total	6,779.2	
32	Plus	20.0	Legislative add-on for Chevak
33		17.3	Legislative add-on for Sitka
34		370.7	5.45% increase in grants
35	FY 91 Total	7,187.2	

Note: Lines 2, 9, 29, and 32-34 result in an overall 21% reduction to existing grantees from FY 86 to FY 91.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF FULL-SERVICE PUBLIC STATION DEVELOPMENT

<u>STATION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ON-AIR</u>	<u>FIRST STATE GRANT</u>
KUAC FM	Fairbanks	09-29-62	FY 1963
KYUK AM	Bethel	05-13-71	FY 1970
KUAC TV	Fairbanks	12-22-71	FY 1970
KYUK TV	Bethel	09-02-72	FY 1972
KOTZ AM	Kotzebue	03-15-73	FY 1972
KTOO FM	Juneau	01-27-74	FY 1973
KAKM TV	Anchorage	05-07-75	FY 1974
KDLG AM	Dillingham	05-22-75	FY 1974
KBRW AM	Barrow	01-22-75	FY 1976
KMXT FM	Kodiak	06-01-76	FY 1976
KRBD FM	Ketchikan	05-22-76	FY 1975
KSTK FM	Wrangell	07-02-77	FY 1977
KFSK FM	Petersburg	09-15-77	FY 1976
KSKA FM	Anchorage	08-15-78	FY 1977
KTOO TV	Juneau	10-01-78	FY 1978
KBBI AM	Homer	08-15-79	FY 1978
KHNS FM	Haines	10-04-80	FY 1980
KSKO AM	McGrath	07-01-81	FY 1979
KCAW FM	Sitka	02-15-82	FY 1980
KCHU AM	Valdez	08-02-86	FY 1981

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. 80% of station activations occurred prior to major infusions of oil revenue into the State's budget.
2. Growth of new public stations has slowed dramatically in the last seven years.

LOCAL FUND RAISING DATA

- - - Alaska Stations Lead The Nation! - - -

Public Radio:	<u>Average Pledge</u>	<u>% of Audience Who Give</u>
Alaska Station Average	\$49.67	18.64%
National Average	\$42.00	7.5%
Public Television:	<u>\$ Value of Contribution Per Household</u>	<u>Average Pledge</u>
Alaska Station Average	\$4.65	\$74.60
National Average	\$1.99	\$55.83

Alaskans support public broadcasting to a greater degree than any other State population.  
Significant improvement is not likely!

**EMPLOYMENT/VOLUNTEER INFORMATION  
FROM PUBLIC BROADCAST STATIONS  
IN ALASKA**

<u>STATION</u>	<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES</u>	<u>VOLUNTEERS</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER TRAINING</u>
<u>APBC Funded Stations</u>				
AIRRES	Anchorage	5.50	160	Basic
KAKM TV	Anchorage	27.00	520	Fundraising, production, programming
KSKA FM	Anchorage	12.00	40	Basic-advanced, college credit, reporting, news
KBRW AM	Barrow	9.00	9	Production for news and music
KYUK(AM)/TV	Bethel	19.50	99	Basic, community college, youth training
KCUK FM	Chevak	1.00	8	Basic
KDLG AM	Dillingham	7.75	6	High school class
KUAC(FM)/TV	Fairbanks	30.00	800	Basic, internships
KIYU AM	Galena	1.75	30	Basic production
KHNS FM	Haines	7.50	50	Basic & advanced, regular air checks
KBBI AM	Homer	8.25	64	Basic, advanced thru comm. school, production, news
KTOO(FM)/TV	Juneau	30.00	150	Basic, advanced, production, college credit
KCZP FM	Kenai	0.00	5	Basic
KRBD FM	Ketchikan	7.00	150	Production, remotes, reporting, on-air announcing
KMXT FM	Kodiak	8.00	60	Basic, village news reporter
KOTZ AM	Kotzebue	8.50	10	Production, sports, on-air
KSKO AM	McGrath	8.00	0	Basic, summer youth program (native)
KFSK FM	Petersburg	8.00	30	Production techniques, basic, EBS, arts, crafts
KUHB FM	St. Paul	1.25	5	Basic
KSDP AM	Sand Point	1.00	0	Basic
	Seward	0.00	7	Basic
KCAW FM	Sitka	8.00	170	Basic, advanced production, advanced news, interns
KCHU AM	Valdez	6.50	10	Basic production, on-air
KSTK FM	Wrangell	7.50	40	Production, drama, news, youth, college credit
		230.00	2,423	

## FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY THE ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION

AS 44.21.264 states that the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission is "created to encourage and to supervise the development of an integrated public broadcasting system for the state and for the coordination of all public broadcasting stations. The primary purpose of the Commission is the encouragement and support of non-commercial public broadcasting in the state through the provision of operating and capital grants in support of the delivery of non-commercial programs intended for a general audience by locally controlled non-profit broadcast stations or telecommunications entities."

While providing grants to public broadcasting is, therefore, the primary purpose of the Commission (and mandated by statute), the APBC carries out several other functions.

- I. Fund and Oversee Engineering Research. Such research has:
  - A. Resulted in the Barrow, Kotzebue, McGrath, Dillingham and Homer public stations being able to increase their nighttime power.
  - B. Led to new ground conductivity studies in the state which will allow even more gains in terms of power increases and coverage for both public and commercial radio.
- II. Participates In or Initiates FCC Actions. Here are a couple of examples in which the APBC played a major role:
  - A. A recent decision by the FCC to provide much higher frequency interference protection for Alaska AM stations than was heretofore possible, allowing rural residents to hear Alaska stations without potential interference from Canadian or Lower 48 stations.
  - B. The opening of the lower end of the FM radio band for use in Alaska and a similar availability for TV channels 5 and 6. Both portions of the spectrum had previously been reserved for military use, and were only available through a long and costly petition process.
- III. Provide Accounting Services for All Grantee Stations.
  - A. This service assists stations by providing free accounting assistance to each one, and
  - B. Provides the Commission with a standardized grant monitoring device (more on this below).
- IV. Training At Stations.
  - A. On a contractual basis, the Commission provides in-service training for staff at stations. Training has been provided in engineering, programming, reporting, financial management, and others.

B. The Commission also provides training for local station Boards of Directors. This training is conducted directly by the APBC Director. This work is viewed by the Commission as particularly important since local Boards hire the station chief executive and are responsible for overseeing all station operations.

V. Provides Advice and Serves As An Information Clearinghouse for Stations.

A. EEO policies.

B. Personnel policies.

C. Local fundraising.

D. Model job descriptions.

E. Engineering help and advice (FCC proofs of performance, form completion and loan of expensive items of test equipment).

F. Assistance in recruiting station personnel (for instance, the APBC Executive Director assisted KBRW in Barrow in securing a temporary manager after the sudden departure of the station manager in December 1983. The temporary manager served for five months while recruitment, with the assistance of the APBC, went forward for a permanent manager. The APBC Director's knowledge of the statewide system and of the availability of individuals who could serve as a temporary manager was key to the station's being able to stay on the air).

VI. Direct Grant Related Activities.

A. APBC staff prepares application forms for both capital and operating grants to be distributed to stations on an annual basis.

B. The staff evaluates station requests for capital and operating grants and makes recommendations for Commission action on each application.

C. The grants must actually be awarded by the Commission.

D. The staff monitors expenditures of all grantees to assure that funds are used as agreed upon by the Commission. The statewide accounting system, paid for by the APBC, is of great assistance at this point, since it requires that all grantees use identical account codes and accounting standards. The Commission, therefore, is able to make direct comparisons from station to station with regard to revenues and expenditures.

VI. Direct Grant Related Activities (continued)

- E. Other station activities are monitored to assure compliance with APBC regulations.
1. That membership on local Boards of Directors is broadly representative of the community and area served by the broadcast facility.
  2. That candidates for the position of chief executive at each grantee are reviewed by the Executive Director and his/her comments are forwarded to the Board prior to the hire of a Chief Executive.
  3. That copies of all FCC reports filed by each grantee are also filed with the Commission.
  4. That copies of an annual independent audit required by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting are filed with the Commission.
  5. To assure that no outside or improper influence is exerted on station programming decisions.

The Commission also receives inquiries from the public about public broadcasting in Alaska and serves as a resource for communities in Alaska who are interested in beginning public radio or television service. The staff also serves as consultants to existing staffs at grantee stations.

When all direct services to stations are considered, the APBC performs its administrative functions with less than 3% of its annual appropriation. Over 95% of the annual appropriation is provided directly to stations in the form of grants. The cost of the statewide accounting system, engineering assistance, legal assistance, and other direct services make up another 2% or more. It is doubtful that many other state grant programs operate with such a low percentage of administrative overhead.

**APBC Funding Compared to Grantee Funding  
January 1991**

	Public Radio and TV Grantees	Amount of Reduction	% Reduced	APBC Administration	Amount of Reduction	% Reduced	Positions
FY 86	7,353.0	0.0	0.0%	636.5	0.0	0.0%	6
FY 87	6,165.1	(1,187.9)	-16.2%	498.9	(137.6)	-21.6%	5
FY 87 (August 1986 cuts)	6,136.1	(29.0)	-0.5%	449.6	(49.3)	-9.9%	4.5
FY 88	6,321.7	(607.5)	-9.9% *	336.0	(113.6)	-25.3%	4
FY 89	6,847.7	0.0	0.0% **	341.4 ***	0.0	0.0%	4
FY 90	6,779.2	(68.5)	-1.0%	337.9	(3.5)	-1.0%	4
FY 91	7,187.2	408.0	6.0%	345.8 ****	7.9	2.3%	4
Cumulative Reductions thus far		(1,484.9)	-21.5%		(296.1)	-55.5%	

APBC Administration has taken approximately twice the reduction of its grantees. In addition, the APBC cut its own administrative staff from 8 to 6 positions in FY 82 and has not increased its administrative budget since that time. The current level of funding will support, at most, 4.0 positions.

Over 20% of the APBC's administrative budget is spent on direct services to grantees: accounting services, legal and technical assistance, and in-service training station staffs and boards.

\*Total FY 88 grant figure appears higher than FY 87 due to new funding for Valdez, Chevak, St. Paul, and Unalaska, plus transfer of KUAC funding from University of Alaska to APBC. All individual grantees, however, actually experienced a 9.9% cut in State funding.

\*\*Total FY 89 grant figure appears higher than FY 88, due to new funding for St. Paul and Chevak, plus transfer of Southeast microwave from the Division of Telecommunications to APBC. All individual grantees, however, received a continuation budget in FY 89.

\*\*\*FY 89 appears higher due to one time statewide personal services supplemental due to rise to health insurance costs.

\*\*\*\*FY 91 appears higher due to one time statewide personal services supplemental due to rise to contractual wage increase.

## QUOTES FROM LETTERS ABOUT PUBLIC BROADCASTING

"...I find [supporting funding for public broadcasting] somewhat awkward since I am a Board Member of Common Sense for Alaska, was chairman of its legislative oversight committee, was treasurer of the campaign committee supporting the State Spending Limit, and generally find myself among those who argue for reductions in State spending.

Nevertheless, public broadcasting is one area which needs adequate State support. I would much prefer to see cuts made in funds for hydroelectric projects, roads, and new positions, than see cuts in support for public broadcasting. Public broadcasting is one of the best things that can be supported with State funds."

"...Perhaps the greatest point in the station's favor, to my mind, is the high degree of local support that is shown both in people hours and contributions. This speaks to widespread public support on all levels...If all public or community service agencies had this kind of support we might do fairly well on budget. Even with this local support, however, all the bills can't be paid here alone. I strongly support the allocation of State funds for central support of this kind of program..."

"...where else is there such a bridge between industry and the public sector?"

"...KRBD has provided a forum for public information and discussion on child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence and treatment of offenders...I especially encourage your endorsement of public radio as a service that "pays for itself" by its contribution to our State..."

"...I am in favor of reduced State spending but not in the case of this greatly useful, important service..."

"...The issue of public broadcasting and I'll only address Kotzebue, is that it serves a definite purpose for "bringing people together." It may not be as sophisticated as other stations, however, KOTZ gives the people in range of their transmission information in all aspects of life, both in and out of State...It lets people in Ambler know that they are important, that events they experience are also experienced by the people in Kivalina...What other means could you know of that can provide both National, State, and local services?..."

"...[Public broadcasting] is unmatched for the amount of this information that can be distributed for the cost, and a great deal of this is not available from any other source. For a tight arts budget, public radio is our best possible deal."

"...This is one area where as a taxpayer I feel my tax dollars are well spent."

"...I am so much more confident of my public speaking abilities and understanding of local issues, that I have run for public office recently. I believe that is the direct result of having volunteered at KCAW."

"...I am in the 1st grade at Wasilla School. I learn lots of things on the Electric Company and other shows..."

"...My husband and I have been in Juneau nearly 50 years. We have been now retired for 10 years and find most of our recreation centering in the programs of our public broadcasting system, particularly of Juneau and Alaska. We especially enjoyed the opportunity to see the Alaska part of "The Chemical People", "Alaska Profile", and other..."

"...Would rather have KAKM than live football..."

"...It's [KSKA] the only radio station in Anchorage with specialized programs for women, blacks, Hispanics and other minority interests..."

"...The local and regional in-depth coverage of issues of critical importance to Juneau and Southeast on "Our Town" and "Southeast Magazine" is excellent even by Outside standards where station budgets are much greater. Public broadcasting in Alaska gives us our money's worth!..."

"...Given the distances and cultural disparity in our state, [public broadcasting] serves to bond our diverse people..."

"...there is no doubt that, dollar for dollar, the outreach and public informational programming of public radio and TV is far more effective in increasing the political, cultural, and technological literacy of Alaskans than the University classroom...Radio and TV are the university of the poor. We cannot afford to leave the least privileged in our society exclusively to the manipulation of commercial media nor to silence or hackneyed programming. I urge strong funding in this arena of government activity..."

"...Its presence greatly adds to the quality of my life in Alaska."

"...I am presently a volunteer announcer and assistant engineer at KRBD. I have been given every opportunity to learn all facets of the broadcasting field. Thanks to KRBD, I now have the skills to enter the job market with practical experience."

"...My special thanks for "The Chemical People" on KTOO and statewide. Hoonah had 100 people at their meeting to view it; they shut down Bingo!"

"...I am quite sure that there are few institutions in this State that receive as much public support or provide as much public benefit..."

"...[Public broadcasting] is a supporter of Alaska throughout the country..."

"...To me and my family, the programming on KAKM is just as important as new roads or a building for schooling..."

"...While we were growing up here in Alaska, we didn't have the benefit of educational television and we feel that Channel 7 has contributed greatly towards our daughter's preschool education..."

"...If your budget cannot include the assistance I would favor spending the permanent fund dividend for this since it could benefit all Alaskans!..."

"...Keeping the North Slope public well-informed about issues that affect them happens only through KBRW. Unity is fostered and perpetuated primarily by communicating, which is the service of KBRW..."

"...please consider this grant and how much it means to people of Alaska. Perhaps to even giving a "little bit more" than was requested..."

These two pie charts show how public broadcasting is NOT majority State funded and how the system raises a large amount of non-State funds.

The charts, from FY-86 and FY-90, clearly show that stations have increased other sources of funding as State funds have been reduced. They certainly support the notion that State support has gone down over the years and that other sources of funds have increased.

The system has already responded to significant reductions in State support and that there is no immediate avenue to turn to for further non-State revenue. The remaining State support is critical to keep the other sources flowing.

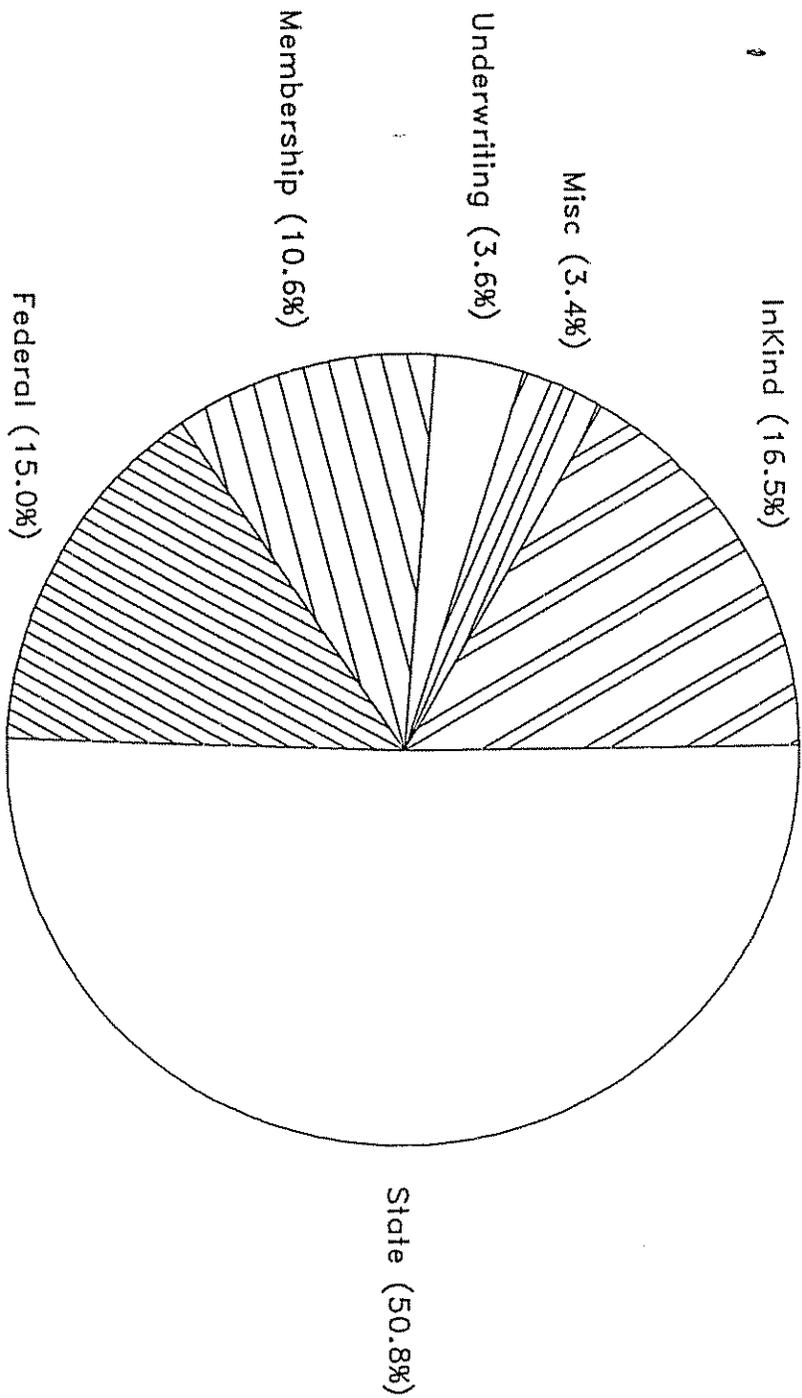
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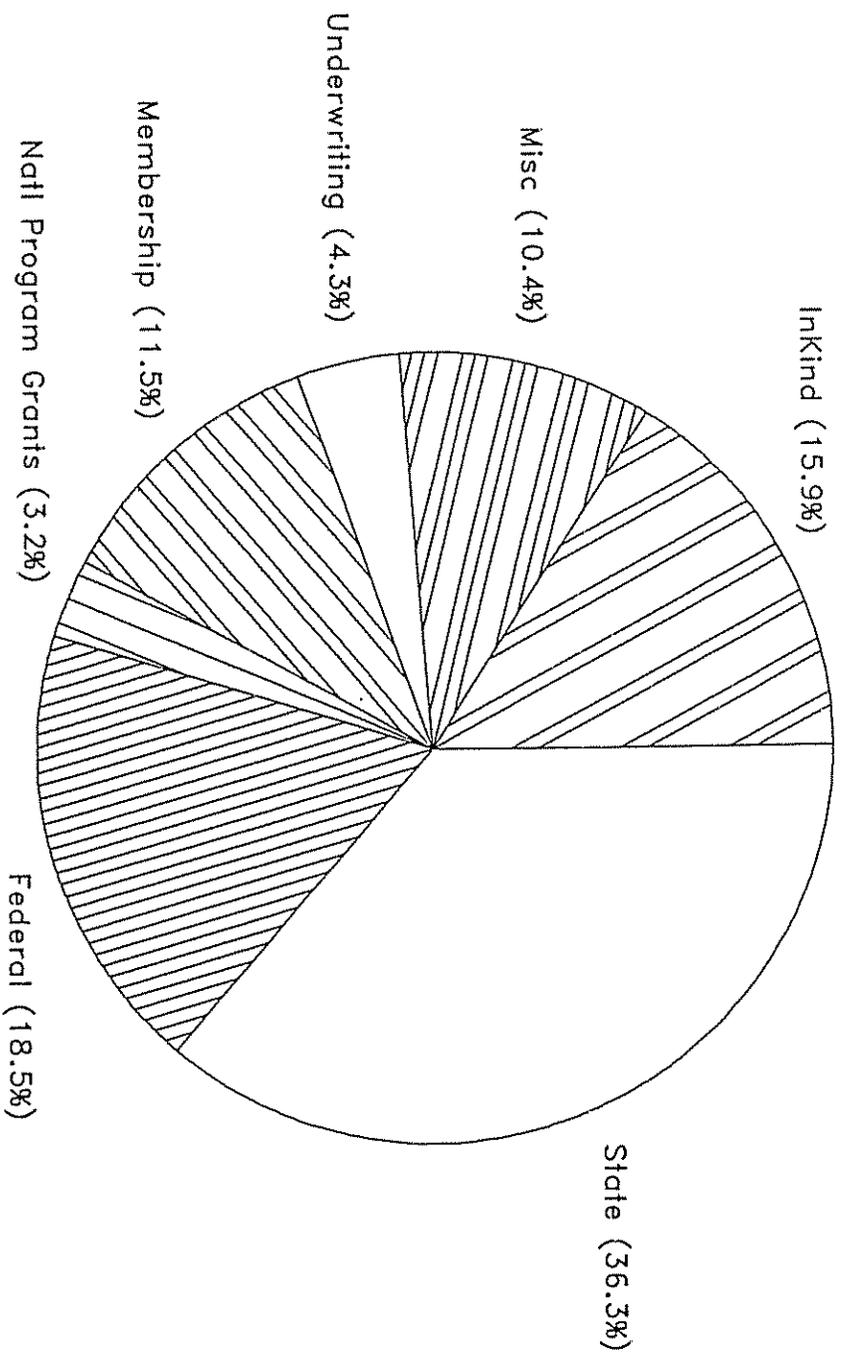
# APBC STATION FUNDING COMPARISON

FY 86 Full Service Stations



# APBC STATION FUNDING COMPARISON

FY 90 Full Service Stations



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Charles Northrip: (907) 465-2846; FAX (907) 465-2496  
Date: March 1, 1991  
Subject: APBC Reacts to Proposed Budget Cuts

The \$2.2 million in budget cuts proposed for Public Broadcasting in the next fiscal year will cause severe disruption to the services stations provide. That's the conclusion reached by the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (APBC) at a meeting held by teleconference yesterday.

Commission Chair Lloyd Morris of Anchorage said, "The over 30% reduction simply can't be visited upon the entire system equally. The cut will cause over half the stations to lose their ability to receive federal funds, deepening the reduction to close to 50%." Morris noted that resulting reductions in on-air hours, cancellation of national programs and loss of local news and information programming will also make it likely that local listener and viewer support will be reduced. "Even though Alaska stations lead the nation in member support, people are not likely to want to give more in contributions when they'll be getting less in programs," he said.

The Commission discussed several options for coping with the cut. Each of the options would eliminate most or all State support to some stations in order to preserve near current levels of support to others. Commission Executive Director Charles Northrip reviewed a 21% reduction in State support since 1986 which, "has already trimmed station and Commission budgets to the minimum," he said.

No Commission members spoke in favor of any of the options, but there was general agreement that all the options would have to be considered, if the proposed reduction becomes a fact for the budget year beginning July 1. Individual members expressed hope that the Governor would change his mind about the proposed cut and move to restore the funds.

The options include:

- I. Eliminating all State support for public television stations in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau, leaving the radio system at near current levels. Two of the television stations say that, without State support, they would have to shut down immediately. The third has indicated it would be out of business within a year. All Public Television programming would cease to be available in Alaska's urban areas.

2. Elimination of State support to half the radio stations would preserve the TV system and the remaining radio stations. The stations losing State support would either go off the air or become repeaters of the remaining stations, which would eliminate any local programming at those locations.
3. Three other "combination" alternatives were discussed, which considered eliminating State support to some PTV and less than half the radio stations.

Commission members noted the "domino effect" of all the alternatives. Several repeater radio stations already rebroadcast programs of full service stations. Support to those stations would likely be eliminated if the originating station were unable to continue. A reader service for the blind in the Anchorage area would lose its state support, if funds were cut to the Anchorage public radio station. The service uses the Anchorage station's signal to reach special receivers in residences, nursing homes and hospitals.

The Commission heard testimony from several stations confirming descriptions of the severe effects the budget cut would cause. Some stations are already considering plans for shut down, the paying of severance wages, and related matters.

Members of the Commission, in addition to Morris, are: Jean Rogers, Vice Chair, Juneau; Patricia Branson, Kodiak; Lucy Crow, Bethel; Sharon Gaiptman, Juneau; Patty Kastelic, Fairbanks; B.G. Olson, Fairbanks; and Steven Strait, Anchorage.

# Anchorage Daily News

Gerald E. Grilly  
Publisher

Howard Weaver  
Editor



Michael Carey, Editorial Page Editor

Patrick Dougherty, Managing Editor

Katherine Fanning, Editor and Publisher 1971 to 1983  
Lawrence Fanning, Editor and Publisher 1967 to 1971

Founded in 1946 by Norman C. Brown

## Ouch!

### Here's one cut that would hurt

When Gov. Walter Hickel said he'd cut the budget by 5 percent, he said he wanted the cuts to be invisible. He's going to have a hard time making good on his word. The cuts coming out of his Department of Administration take aim at a highly visible and valued service: public radio and television.

Commissioner Millet Keller reportedly recommends cutting that portion of his budget by almost 30 percent. Cuts that deep cannot help but knock some radio or TV stations off the air.

News of the cuts comes just as the Gulf War highlights how valuable Alaska's public broadcasting network is. It has offered Alaskans throughout the state up-to-the-minute news, in-depth analysis, and reactions from their fellow citizens.

Gov. Hickel has not yet formally endorsed the proposed cuts, but they fit a discouraging pattern. The governor came into office advocating simplistic financial priorities. While he cuts the operating budget 5 percent a year, he plans to spend Alaska's war windfall (if there is one) on capital projects, "economic infrastructure."

Cuts to public broadcasting reflect an excessively narrow view of the public good. Under this view, broadcasting is not a traditional function of government.

But private markets and accountants' ledgers are not the sole ways of measuring what is valuable. Such deep cuts to public broadcasting would rend part of the fabric that weaves Alaska together.

State spending — operating and capital — does need to be cut. The governor does need to set and enforce priorities. But Alaska is not so financially strapped that it has to force some of the state's public radio and TV stations off the air.

**QUICK**  
ALASKA'S NEWS SERVICE

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ALASKAN OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1915

## TUNING IN

### The public choice

**P**UBLIC RADIO and television are among the finest resources we have in our mostly rural state. Witness public radio's service during this past week. From Barrow to Ketchikan, small member stations of the public network aired constant coverage of war developments to thousands who had no other immediate source of information.

In Anchorage, KSKA's call-in programs and in-depth analysis of unfolding events provoked thought and promoted understanding of the complex Mideast situation.

During the long months leading up to the war, the nightly "MacNell-Lehrer News Hour" on KAKM-TV and other public TV stations in Alaska's larger cities helped viewers comprehend our nation's circuitous path to war.

And back during the political season, public television's candidate interviews gave viewers more information about their choices in the election. While commercial stations also do a laudable job along these lines, they are often not available in certain communities. And where both non-commercial and commercial stations exist, public television offers a choice.

Since their introduction to our state in the last 15 years, public television and radio have consistently provided high quality programs, depending only on public and private handouts. Yet, despite their record of public service, both are again in danger of having their government support seriously reduced.

Gov. Hickel's plan to cut the state budget by 5 percent is reasonable — and commendable. However, proposed cuts to public broadcasting will go much deeper.

PUBLIC RADIO and television are not in competition with commercial stations. They fill a void by offering programs not deemed commercially viable. "Sesame Street" is a classic TV example and, at the locally produced level, KAKM's nightly 30-minute "Alaska Weather," distributed statewide by Rural Alaska Television Network, provides essential information to residents whose lifestyles depend on the weather. Every weeknight, Alaska Public Radio Network's award-winning "Alaska News Nightly" reaches 100 communities with a collective population of more than 32,000.

These are small examples of the broad range of programming on the public system.

Over the years, public radio and television increasingly have weaned themselves from the government trough. Since KAKM signed on in 1978, community donations have risen from 28 percent of its budget to the current 60 percent, while state and federal funding dropped proportionately. Public radio has a similar history.

As the state administration looks for ways to meet our new governor's budget reduction targets, public broadcasting should not be immune to belt tightening. That's reasonable. But massive cuts that silence the stations are not.

Archives  
Daily  
News  
1/25/91  
P A - 1

# Hickel proposes 5% cut, 'reallocation' in budget

By DAVID POSTMAN and GEORGE FROST  
Daily News reporters

**JUNEAU** — Gov. Walter Hickel said Thursday Alaska "must break the habit that state government pays for everything" and unveiled a budget that pays a lot less for social services and education and a lot more for big construction projects.

To meet his campaign promise of a 5 percent reduction in the operating cost of government, Hickel had to back off another campaign pledge, to leave untouched the 10-

**RESISTANCE:** Native groups try to drum up pressure against Fish and Game choice Ron Somerville, E-1

gently bonus program for Alaska senior citizens.

In the State of the Budget Address, Hickel asked legislators to give up the way they have handed out money and instead make local governments and school districts

Please see Back Page, BUDGET

Governor Walter Hickel

P.O. Box A

Juneau, AK 99811

# BUDGET: Hickel proposes 5% cut, 'reallocation' of spending

Continued from Page A-1

pay more, eliminate the traditional capital budget in which each lawmaker gets a piece of the pork and do it all in 60 days, not the 120 it usually takes to put a budget together.

"Since oil began to flow from Prudhoe Bay ... our appetite has been unconquered. Our reputation damaged," he said in his fiscal 1992 budget speech to a joint session of the legislature.

Key legislators said much of Hickel's plan was unworkable.

"Making cuts at programs affecting the poor, the blind, the disadvantaged, and choicel... In order to fund vital projects of questionable value strikes as misguided," said Rep. Jay Brown, D-Anchorage, a member of the House Finance Committee.

Sen. Jay Kertula, D-Anchorage, co-chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said Hickel's budget is unfit to local governments.

"The first thing the governor did was to take more than 50 percent of his from education, and another big chunk from funding for local governments," said. "This just shifts the burden down the line."

House Minority Leader Jim Taylor, though, said Hickel may not have gone through.

"Our budget grew by 15 percent in two years," said Taylor, R-Wrangell. "A 5 percent cut is modest. The people demand it. And I think we should cut deeper."

Hickel said it would be tough to make the cuts but "streamline the cost of government yet improve delivery."

But in an interview later, he said that doesn't mean there will be less spending. "We're not going to cut spending, we're going to reallocate resources," he said. "We're not taking the money out of operations and hiding it, we're just putting it where it will be put to better use."

The money, about \$110 million, would be cut from the operating budget which pays for the day-to-day activities of government and passes money to local governments. That would be a 5.3 percent reduction and put the operating budget at about \$2.1 billion. "Which," Hickel told lawmakers, "is enough for all of us."

But about \$600 million would be put into a fund Hickel wants to create, the Alaska Investment Fund, to pay for large-scale construction projects and pay off state debt. That's about how much Hickel's number crunchers think will be left over at the end of the 1991

## BUDGET COMPARISON

Current year to next year

Department	FY91	FY92	Change
Governor	\$10.0 million	\$15.0 million	-5.9%
Administration	\$107.4 million	\$158.7 million	-5.2%
Law	\$50.0 million	\$34.2 million	-32.8%
Revenue	\$32.0 million	\$27.4 million	-14.3%
Education	\$800.4 million	\$840.2 million	-7.2%
Health/Social Ser.	\$555.4 million	\$370.8 million	6.0%
Labor	\$13.4 million	\$10.8 million	-19.0%
Commerce	\$60.0 million	\$68.0 million	-4.3%
Military Affairs	\$11.3 million	\$9.9 million	-12.2%
Natural Resources	\$67.6 million	\$49.1 million	-4.0%
Fish & Game	\$48.8 million	\$46.4 million	-6.0%
Public Safety	\$62.8 million	\$78.4 million	-6.3%
Transportation	\$138.6 million	\$131.4 million	-7.0%
DEC	\$27.8 million	\$28.9 million	-7.0%
Community Aff.	\$122.0 million	\$117.4 million	-4.4%
Corrections	\$89.4 million	\$86.6 million	-0.8%
University	\$105.3 million	\$152.0 million	-7.7%
Courts	\$41.8 million	\$38.8 million	-7.5%
Legislative	\$31.0 million	\$28.6 million	-7.6%
TOTAL	\$2.2 billion	\$2.1 billion	-6.0%

Some Alaskans are afraid of capital projects because in the past we have built monuments which cost the state a fortune to operate and produced no revenue," Hickel said. "But those projects will not qualify for the Alaska Investment Fund. Only those that cover their own operating and

Reaction to the investment fund was also critical. Sen. Pat Pouborol, the Anchorage Democratic co-chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the man in charge of the capital budget, said the proposal would not get very far.

Sen. Al Adams, D-Kotzebue, said Alaska needs to be sensitive to how it spends its

amount paid to senior citizens under the state's longevily bonus program. A proposal to raise the age of qualification for the bonus from 65 to 67 would also reduce the program's cost.

"We have to face the fact that we cannot afford the longevily bonus in its present form," Hickel said.

In his campaign, Hickel said he would "support continuation of the program," Shelby Stansky said would only be possible if the costs were cut.

But in interviews with the newspaper Senior Voice, since his election, Hickel said he didn't think the program needed to be changed at all.

He said in an interview Thursday night he hadn't realized that more and more people were entering the program and that it now costs \$60 million a year.

Nearly obliterating the Alaska Women's Commission, by cutting its budget from \$230,000



but would eliminate its staff. The commission, that promotes equal rights for women, has been controversial and conservative Republican lawmakers have tried unsuccessfully to kill it.

"Making the same rule for the Alaska Commission on Children and Youth."

"Zeroing out the Child Care Review Board. The board was set up by the legislature to oversee placement of foster children, according to Administration Commissioner Millett Keller. Keller said he decided to eliminate the board because it ever began its work because Health and Social Services Commissioner Ted Mala promised to solve the problem with foster care.

"Taking \$2.2 million out of public broadcasting's \$7.5 million budget.

Major cuts in the Department of Law's budget for all tax and royalty litigation. Stansky said full funding won't be needed because the Hickel administration is intent on settling the suits out of court.

A \$50 million cut in the Department of Education's \$698 million budget, including a 7 percent reduction in what the state

# APRN

## VOICES OF ALASKA

Alaska Public Radio Network ★ 4640 Old Seward Highway ★ Suite 202 ★ Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone (907) 563-7733 ★ Fax (907) 563-7740

February 5, 1991

Dear Friends of APRN:

Following the Exxon Valdez oil spill, you demonstrated your appreciation for public radio by contributing to our emergency broadcast fund. Now we need your help more than ever before. It's not your money that we need, it's your support.

Governor Hickel has proposed eliminating 30% of the state funds for public broadcasting--a cut that would have a devastating effect on APRN.

Our 25 member stations contribute more than a third of APRN's operating support. The Governor's proposed cuts could eliminate half of those stations, jeopardizing the continued viability of our statewide radio network.

Please write to your legislators and to Governor Hickel today. Tell them why you value public radio and why they should reconsider this budget cut. (And please send us a copy of your letter.)

The Governor's office and individual legislators have told us there has been little public reaction to the Governor's cuts, leading them to believe the public supports the Governor's plan to cut public broadcasting.

Please tell them they're wrong and tell them today! Thanks for your help.

Sincerely yours,

  
Diane S. Kaplan  
President and CEO

P.S. We're counting on you to respond today! If you need help identifying your local representatives call us at 563-7733

KSKA-FM Anchorage • KBRW-AM Barrow • KYUK-AM Bethel • KCUK-FM Chevak • KDLG-AM Dillingham • KUAC-FM Fairbanks  
KIYU-AM Galena • KHNS-FM Haines • KBBI-AM Homer • KTOO-FM Juneau • KCZP-FM Kenai/Soldotna • KRBD-FM Ketchikan  
KMXT-FM Kodiak • KOTZ-AM Kotzebue • KSKO-AM McGrath • KNOM-AM Nome • KFSK-FM Petersburg • KSDP-AM Sand Point  
KCAW-FM Sitka • KUHB-FM St. Paul • KIAL-AM Unalaska • KCHU-AM Valdez • KSTK-FM Wrangell

## SENATE

P.O. BOX V, Juneau, AK 99811  
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NAME	PHONE NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
ADAMS, Al	465-3707/3724	Capitol, Room 508
COLLINS, Virginia M.	465-2828/2829	Capitol, Room 7
COTTEN, Sam	465-3711/3799	Capitol, Room 11
DUNCAN, Jim	465-4766/4767	Capitol, Room 119
ELIASON, Dick	465-4916 (3755 Pres)	Capitol, Room 111
FAHRENKAMP, Bettye M.	465-3834 (4920 Leg. C.)	Capitol, Room 125
FISCHER, Paul	465-3791/4956/3517	Capitol, Rm. 423
FRANK, Steve	465-3709/3877 (4989 C&RA)	Capitol, Rm. 417
HALFORD, Rick	465-4958/4450/2137 (3717 Judiciary)	Capitol, Rm. 103
HOFFMAN, Lyman	465-4453/4530/4523	Capitol, Rm. 510
JONES, Lloyd	465-3743/3745 (4907 Resources)	Capitol, Rm. 30
KERTTULA, Jay	465-1200 (4985 Finance)	Capitol, Rm. 518
MENARD, Curt	465-2679/4944 (4921 Transportation)	Capitol, Rm. 9
PEARCE, Drue	465-4993/2678 (3844 L&C)	Capitol, Rm. 101
POURCHOT, Pat	465-3879/3712 (3753 Finance)	Capitol, Rm. 516
RODEY, Pat	465-3793/3754 (4522 St Affairs)	Capitol, Rm. 113
SHULTZ, Dick	465-4940/4951	Capitol, Rm. 504
STURGULEWSKI, Arliss	465-3818/3819/3787 (3762 HESS)	Capitol, Rm. 427
UEHLING, Rick	465-4821/4822/4823/3871	Capitol, Rm. 512/514
ZHAROFF, Fred	465-3473/3474/4922 (3770 Rules)	Capitol, Rm. 121
Nancy Quinto, SENATE SECRETARY	465-3701/3785	Capitol, Rm. 213
Tim Grussendorf, SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	465-4987	Senate Chambers
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Data Processing	465-2419	Sommers Building
HELP DESK	465-3858	Sommers Building
Administrative Svcs.	465-3850	Sommers Building
Accounting	465-3852	Sommers Building
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Documents	465-3737	Capitol, Rm. 3
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Personnel	465-3854	Simpson Bldg. Rm. 208
Print Shop	465-3806	Basement, Comm. Bldg.
Supply	465-3853	Capitol, Rm. 5
Legal Services	465-3867	Court Plaza, 5th Fl.
Reference Library	465-3808	Court Plaza, 6th Fl.
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SENATE RECORDS	465-2870/4452	Shattuck Bldg., Rm. 7

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BOYER, Mark	465-3466/3467	Capitol, Rm. 411
BROWN, Kay	465-4998/3784	Capitol, Rm. 513
BRUCKMAN, Betty	465-4843/4844	Capitol, Rm. 116
CARNEY, Pat	465-2186/2305 (3759 HESS)	Capitol, Rm. 104
CHOQUETTE, Dave	465-2995/3464	Court, Rm. 609
DAVIDSON, Cliff	465-2487/2498 (3715 Resources)	Capitol, Rm. 108
DAVIS, Bettye	465-3875/4894	Capitol, Rm. 409
DAVIS, Cheri	465-3424/3427	Capitol, Rm. 118
DONLEY, Dave	465-3892/3893 (4990 Judiciary)	Capitol, Rm. 122
ELLIS, Johnny	465-3704/3705 (3764/3765 Rules)	Capitol, Rm. 204
FINKELSTEIN, David	465-2435/2489 (4954 L&C)	Capitol, Rm. 15
FOSTER, Richard	465-3789/4984 (4858 Transportation)	Court, Rm. 611
GONZALES, John	465-2327/4713	Court, Rm. 606
GRUENBERG, Max	465-4968/4986 (3718 Maj Leader)	Capitol, Rm. 216
GRUSSENDORF, Ben	465-3824/3721/3888 (3720 Speaker)	Capitol, Rm. 208
HANLEY, Mark	465-4939/4914	Court, Rm. 608
HUDSON, Bill	465-3744/4991 (2283 Oil & Gas)	Capitol, Rm. 114
IVAN, Ivan	465-4527/4924	Capitol, Rm. 405
JACKO, George	465-4942/4943	Capitol, Rm. 415
KOPONEN, Niilo	465-4457/4955/4992	Capitol, Rm. 503
KUBINA, Gene	465-4853/4859 (4963 St. Affairs)	Capitol, Rm. 102
LARSON, Ron	465-3878 (3727 LB&A)	Capitol, Rm. 502
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MACLEAN, Eileen	465-4833/4525 (3722 Finance)	Capitol, Rm. 507
MARTIN, Terry	465-3783/3782	Court, Rm. 600
MILLER, Mary	465-2199/2116	Court, Rm. 614
MILLER, Mike	465-4976/3792	Court, Rm. 607
MOYER, Tom	465-4930/4941 (2973 Int'l Trade & Tourism)	Capitol, Rm. 13
NAVARRE, Mike	465-3779/4977 (3706 Finance)	Capitol, Rm. 511/515
PARNELL, Kevin "Pat"	465-2647	Capitol, Rm. 128
PHILLIPS, Gall	465-2689/4917	Court, Rm. 605
PHILLIPS, Randy	465-4949/2661/2708	Capitol, Rm. 521
SHARP, Bert	465-3004/3018	Capitol, Rm. 501
TAYLOR, Robin	465-3873/4905/4906	Court, Rm. 601
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## ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Gov.  
 WALTER HICEE  
 Bush A  
 Junior AK 9981)

# Opinion

Thursday, March 7, 1991

## Public radio, TV need vital state support

Fairbanks' own public broadcasting station, KUAC-FM and TV, in the midst of its annual fundraising drive, this one called Festival '91. It is particularly urgent this year to secure public support for this valuable amenity because proposed state funding cuts for public broadcasting.

The immediate threat to KUAC and other public broadcasting stations in Alaska is the 30 percent cut in state funding contained in Gov. Hickel's proposed budget. Such a deep cut in state support damages public broadcasting in two ways. First, much federal funding is dependent upon state matching money.

One other vital source of such funding comes from public broadcasting audiences. KUAC listeners and viewers have consistently shown enthusiastic support for the station during our fund drives statewide, the KUAC audience has raised top money per capita, far ahead of areas with larger populations. In terms of the number of TV viewers during prime time, KUAC-TV continues to out-



Celia Hunter

strip all other PBS outlets. A quick survey of the history of public broadcasting in Alaska shows that it all began right here in Fairbanks, when KUAC-FM went on the air on Sept. 29, 1962. I was here in Fairbanks then, and bought my first FM radio receiver because of this great event. KUAC-FM remained the only public broadcasting station in Alaska all through the 1960s.

Gov. Walter Hickel, in his first term, introduced legislation to establish an Alaska Educational Broadcasting Commission to promote public broadcasting throughout the state. Though this legislation failed, three years later a similar bill passed, which assured state funding of public

broadcasting.

During Hickel's administration, much attention was focused on the possibilities of satellite distribution of educational materials as a means of overcoming Alaska's rugged terrain and great distances between settlements. It was many years before this space age technology became available, however. Meanwhile, Bethel established the first community-operated radio station—KYUK—which began broadcasting on May 13, 1971.

That same year, on Dec. 22, 1971, KUAC-TV went on the air for the first time—in full color. This event caused a sales boom in color TVs in the Fairbanks area. The previous year—1970—KUAC moved into its present studios in the fine arts complex on the UAF campus.

The gradual expansion of both radio and television stations in Alaska went on during the 1970s and the 1980s. KOTZ in Kotzebue went on the air in 1973.

Television was extended to southwest Alaska in 1972 through RCA-Alascom microwave transmitters. KYUK-TV began broadcasting in

September 1972, and today has become a major producer and distributor of productions dealing with the Yupik-Eskimo culture.

Independent, locally-produced television programs have greatly expanded the possibilities and national recognition of Alaska's public broadcasting network. KUAC-TV went international in 1989 when "Make Prayers by BBC throughout the British Isles. Coverage of Alaska political campaigns and other major news events had placed both radio, through the Alaska Public Radio Network, and television, through the Public TV Network of Alaska, in the forefront of public service organizations in the state.

"Alaska News Nightly," a daily 30-minute broadcast of news and public affairs by APRN has been an invaluable source of information since its inception in September 1979. The coverage of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989 thrust the network into national and international attention, as stations worldwide picked up spot coverage

from Valdez.

APRN was awarded a contract from the CPB to provide intermediate news reporting and production training to public radio stations on a national level in 1986. With 16 member radio stations and eight associate members, APRN is one of the largest statewide radio networks in the country.

The possibility that this outstanding achievement, which has created so much national recognition for Alaska and which provides such a vital service to all Alaskans, especially those in rural areas, could be threatened in order to save a couple of million dollars in a budget in excess of \$2 billion is an example of penny-pinching unworthy of the man who helped create public broadcasting in Alaska during its original term in office.

Gov. Hickel, you showed real vision in 1967; let's maintain that vision in 1991 and for decades to come. Support full funding for public broadcasting in your revised state budget!

Celia Hunter has been active in the Alaska conservation movement since 1969.

