

RESOLUTION 2025-09-01

A RESOLUTION by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) expressing support for restoring and protecting federal funding for public media in Alaska.

WHEREAS, Congress rescinded \$1.1 billion in previously approved federal funding for public media, and

WHEREAS, this rescission threatens to severely impact communities in Southwest Alaska and rural Alaska broadly; and

WHEREAS, the loss of funding will result in entire communities going dark due to the loss of local media altogether, and

WHEREAS, in remote and Indigenous regions, public media often functions as the only reliable communication lifeline, including delivery of emergency notices when other systems fail; and

WHEREAS, local public radio and television stations provide households with programming for all ages, news, local content, community services, and life-saving emergency communication; and

WHEREAS, given Alaska's vast, rugged, and roadless terrain, public broadcasting is critical for public safety: radio often continues operating during power outages or disasters when internet and cell networks fail; and

WHEREAS, public media offers more than programming and alerts — it provides ongoing situational updates, relays local government and school district messages, and issues critical information on weather and other local conditions which are critical to the commercial fishing industry, subsistence activities, community well-being; and

WHEREAS, in Indigenous communities, public radio helps preserve language and culture through broadcasts in local dialects, ensuring that emergency and preparedness information is communicated in culturally appropriate and understandable ways; and

WHEREAS, restoring federal funding is essential to maintain station operations, protect life-saving emergency communications, and guarantee that every community retains access to emergency broadcasting, educational content, local news, cultural programming, and community connection; and

WHEREAS, public media stations in Southwest and rural Alaska providing these vital services include **KDLG** (Dillingham), **KSDP** (Sand Point), **KMXT** (Kodiak), **KUCB** (Unalaska), **KKQA** (Akutan), **KOLD** (Cold Bay), and **KUHB** (St. Paul);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) hereby expresses its strong support for public media and its role in rural Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SWAMC commends individuals, organizations, and communities that have donated or otherwise supported public media operations in the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SWAMC urges the United States Congress to fully restore the rescinded funding for public media; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SWAMC calls upon the Alaska Congressional Delegation and all members of Congress to enact statutory, baseline federal funding protections for public media to prevent future cuts or rescissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SWAMC encourages its member municipalities, stakeholders, and residents to contact their federal representatives in support of restoring and securing public media funding; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, Congressman Nicholas Begich III, the Alaska State Legislature, Governor Mike Dunleavy, and the members of SWAMC.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Board of Directors this 26th day of September 2025.

Signed

SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE



Mayor Alice Ruby, President
Board of Directors
Bristol Bay Municipal Seat
City of Dillingham

Attest:



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