

May 1, 2008

Dear Governor Palin,

I am writing you on behalf of KCHU, Terminal Radio Inc., the public radio station broadcasting out of Valdez, and I am asking you to support the station's proposal that requests capitol funds in order for it to send audio processors/engineers to each of its current transmission sites and to implement an engineering study of the broadcasting area. The station broadcasts to a large area that encompasses most of Prince William Sound and the Copper River basin, and in some of the communities the signal is poor or nonexistent (Chitina, Slana, Nabesna, Kenny Lake, Tatitlik, parts of Copper Center are some that I know about). Implementing an engineering study on the existing sites will help the station pinpoint problem areas and be able to find solutions; test the capabilities of the existing equipment and decide what is necessary to expand the broadcasting area; be able to construct a long range strategic plan for the future.

In many areas throughout its broadcasting range, KCHU is either the only choice or one of two choices for reliable and timely access to public service announcements, weather information and road reports, local community events, Alaska news, public safety messages, or "bush message service" for local residents. These things are not only basic services for the residents of our rural communities but sometimes can be vital. In the listening areas that have poor or no reception, these services are only received in a diminished capacity – or not at all.

I live in Kenny Lake, one of the areas with less than adequate radio reception, and am both a member of the KCHU Board of Directors and a radio listener. I do not currently receive the radio signal at my home so have to rely on the information that I receive when traveling in my car to and from work.

Improving the radio signals and coverage in our area is critical to being able to keep and expand the basic public and government services that this station provides for us. I hope that you will strongly consider funding this proposal.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and to consider this request, Governor Palin.

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