



April 14, 2025

Chairman Ted Cruz
Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz,

For years, National Public Radio (NPR), the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) have operated with taxpayer funds while failing to provide the American public with transparency about how their money is being spent. This lack of accountability has gone on long enough, and we believe it is time for Congress to take decisive action.

It goes without saying that we firmly believe, armed with 35 years of irrefutable evidence, that NPR and PBS are worthy of defunding and guilty of abusing the privilege of operating on the taxpayers' dime. These entities have, for too long, accepted public funds while failing to uphold the very principles of transparency and impartiality they were originally intended to embody.

The Media Research Center's position is clear: If NPR and PBS do not commit to a full, independent audit of their financial operations, the only reasonable recourse is for Congress to repeal the authorizing statute for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. This audit must be conducted by a trusted, independent accounting firm, and its results must be made publicly available. There should be no more hiding behind opaque financial practices.

These entities continue to benefit from taxpayer subsidies while simultaneously spending resources lobbying to secure even more taxpayer dollars. The fact that they've retained lobbyists to influence lawmakers into granting them additional funding demonstrates the need for even greater scrutiny. If NPR and PBS have nothing to hide, they should welcome an independent audit to prove their commitment to transparency and integrity. If they refuse, the case for defunding becomes undeniable.

It is your responsibility as Congressional leaders to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used responsibly and efficiently. Continuing to fund organizations that fail to disclose their financial dealings and engage in lobbying to protect their subsidies undermines the trust of the American people. No taxpayer should be forced to subsidize entities that operate with such little oversight and accountability.

We demand that you take immediate action. If NPR, PBS, and CPB do not agree to a fully independent audit, then the only course of action left is for Congress to repeal the authorizing statute for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Continuing to allow these organizations to operate without transparency and accountability is an abuse of taxpayer funds, and it's time for that to end.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your leadership in ensuring that the American people are no longer forced to bankroll an operation that has long outlived its original purpose and has shown a blatant disregard for the financial transparency that taxpayers deserve.

Sincerely,

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