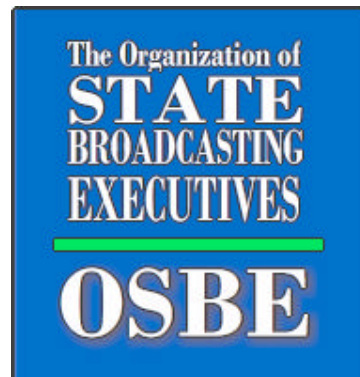


16 June 2005

Mr. Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
Chairman of the Board
The Corporation for Public Broadcasting
401 Ninth Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20004



Dear Mr. Tomlinson:

As co-chairs of the Organization of State Broadcasting Executives (OSBE), we are writing on behalf of our 32 members, each one of us representing primarily rural public television broadcasting in their respective states and covering 64% of the United States.

In the past few weeks, you and others on the board have received letters from various licensees, including several from members of OSBE, and a letter sent by the NETA executive committee, which represents NETA's 95 member licensees. We agree with those letters in principle, and we encourage the CPB board to consider the following.

First, we support the recommendations of our colleagues regarding the Board's selection of a CPB president. We all agree that this task is a responsibility of the board. Yet it is clear that because of recent public arguments over editorial integrity, your selection will influence local as well as national attitudes toward public broadcasting.

Please understand that we are not arguing against a specific candidate. But, if it is not obvious to us that the search process has been conducted in a professional, unbiased and transparent manner, how can we assure our constituents and our supporters of public broadcasting's journalistic integrity?

And without an open process how can you expect the new president to garner the support and confidence of licensees, members of Congress, CPB staff or the American public?

We urge you to conduct a full and public search for this position.

Second, we ask that any questions relative to the editorial integrity of public broadcasting be resolved within the profession. We are not suggesting this matter should be pushed aside or overlooked; we would welcome an open discussion of programming. But we do ask that the discussion be constructive; that it be convened within the public broadcasting community; and that licensees moderate the discussion. The Affinity Group Coalition (AGC) provides an appropriate forum for such issues.

Finally, we urge you to take steps on another matter. CPB and the licensees must address recent actions in Congress. The proposed rescission of CPB's FY 2006 appropriation and the elimination of funding for Ready to Learn, digital conversion, and PTFP will

undermine our services. *In fact, these reductions will assure the loss of public broadcasting service in many of our rural communities.*

This is the time when CPB's leadership, particularly your own as board Chair, is essential.

We have faced such threats in the past. Ironically, earlier threats have served to reinforce public support for our services. And in each instance, our success has been due to the licensee community's demonstration of local relevance and value.

Licensees need assurance that CPB, APTS, PBS and NPR are working together, in support of the work we do locally in thousands of communities across the nation. Absent such cooperation, our services will no longer be available to the communities, schools and families of this nation.

Your June 20 board meeting provides a perfect setting for CPB to call publicly for full restoration of the CPB appropriation and continued support for the other programs.

We appreciate the countless hours you've already committed to public broadcasting and look forward to you and the board leading the effort as described in this letter.

Yours truly,

Peter W. Morrill
Co-Chair, OSBE

Allan Pizzato
Co-Chair, OSBE

2005-2006 OSBE Members:

Alabama Public Television	NJN / New Jersey
Alaska Public Broadcasting, Inc.	UNC-TV / North Carolina
Arkansas Educational Television Network	Prairie Public Broadcasting
Connecticut Public Broadcasting	Ohio Educational Broadcasting
Florida Public Broadcasting	OETA / Oklahoma
Georgia Public Broadcasting	Oregon Public Broadcasting
PBS Hawaii	Pennsylvania Public TV Network
Idaho Public Television	Rhode Island PBS
Iowa Public Television	Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting
KET / Kentucky	South Carolina ETV
Louisiana Public Broadcasting	South Dakota Public Broadcasting
Maine Public Broadcasting	Utah Education Network
Maryland Public Television	Vermont Public Television
Mississippi Public Broadcasting	West Virginia Public Broadcasting
NET / Nebraska	WECB / WPT / Wisconsin
New Hampshire Public Television	Wyoming Public Television