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March 24, 2025

The Honorable Marjorie Taylor Greene
Chairwoman, House Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury
Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Greene, Ranking Member Stansbury, and Members of the
Subcommittee:

I am writing from South Carolina to share some of the important work that South Carolina Educational Television and South Carolina Public Radio provide to the citizens of our state. We recently shared much of this information with the staff of our Fourth District Congressman William Timmons. We focus on the “E” in SCETV which describes not only our educational services, but also our work to support emergency preparedness, economic development and engagement in the community. It cannot be understated how federal funds support so much of this important work.

A few important points:

Education

SCETV was founded more than 60 years ago as an education resource for our state’s students. We have remained true to that mission today. Our standards-based curriculum in Early Childhood and Pre-K-12 education resources are used in classrooms every day through our knowitall.org web portal. Our teacher professional development and certification resources give teachers a convenient and easily accessible way to get the training required of them. More than 3,500 South Carolina educators last fiscal year participated in our workshops, trainings and renewal courses. Federal funding through Ready to Learn supports early learning and kindergarten readiness, especially in rural and underserved communities—which is approximately 34 percent of our state.

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Emergency Preparedness

SCETV and SC Public Radio provides essential services to our audiences and community. Our statewide technology infrastructure includes 544 towers in every corner of the state, which means a built-in redundancy and resiliency when emergencies occur. A recent example of this was evident during Hurricane Helene in late 2024. When commercial communication towers went down, every tower in our network remained online to provide hyper-local information which was especially critical in the many rural pockets of our state that have little or no coverage.

Through the South Carolina Emergency Information Network (SCEIN) weather service, SCETV provides live weather-related emergency content to South Carolina residents and visitors. The service pulls data from eight remote weather stations across the state. SCETV towers also support NOAA, SC HEART (South Carolina Healthcare Emergency Amateur Radio Team) and FEMA infrastructure during emergencies. SCETV also maintains and manages SCHEART infrastructure, which includes a network of over 50 radio repeaters reaching participating hospitals in the state and allowing the flow of information on incoming patients, evacuations and coordination among facilities during emergencies and weekly communications exercises. These are services that no other entity or organization can provide in our state. Funding for public media is essential to ensuring free access to daily local news and emergency alerting. This is an essential component of public radio's universal access mission, with broadcasts reaching 99.5% of the American population. We are thankful to PBS for the creation and operation of PBS WARN, which provides every Wireless Emergency Alert to every PBS station in the country for geotargeted distribution by cellular carriers, providing a backup path for the national alert system. As well, PBS represents public broadcasters in national advisory initiatives such as FEMA IPAWS Working Group and FCC's Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council.

Economic Development

SCETV is deeply involved with increasing awareness about a variety of career options to students through ongoing partnerships with the SC Hospital Association, SC Bio, and SC Technical College System. In addition, SCETV is a member of the State Coordinating Council for Workforce Development, helping to address workforce challenges and support economic growth. SCETV highlights South Carolina's workforce, infrastructure, and quality of life through partnerships with industry and non-profit organizations. We develop engaging educational content that introduces students to career opportunities in high demand, and some lesser known, fields. By showcasing these careers to a potential future talent pool of students, parents and educators through myriad opportunities, including gaming, SCETV plays a vital role in strengthening the state's workforce pipeline and fostering economic growth.

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Engagement in the community

SCETV actively engaged with the community during 50 events last fiscal year, reaching over 50,000 attendees. SCETV is dedicated to supporting educators and families by hosting workshops that provide valuable resources for parents and teachers, fostering stronger educational connections across the state. By convening community conversations around important topics, SCETV helps facilitate meaningful dialogue and collaboration. Additionally, SCETV promotes civic engagement by livestreaming South Carolina House and Senate sessions both online and on broadcast, ensuring all South Carolinians—especially those in rural communities—have access to vital information and the legislative process.

Our community supports SCETV and SC Public Radio and does a great deal to partner and invest in our services. They understand that we provide unmatched services that are nonpartisan public services for all our state's citizens and Americans. We are a vital resource. We urge Congress to preserve their longstanding bipartisan support for public media.

More than high-quality content production, public broadcasting is a vital tool in the toolkit for education, public safety and community engagement for all Americans—even as the landscape of media is rapidly changing.

We are happy to provide any additional details that might be helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Adrienne Fairwell (Mar 24, 2025 10:01 EDT)

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President and CEO