



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

Kyle D. Gassiott

Director, Troy Public Radio
Troy University
Troy, AL 36082

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

I am writing on behalf of Troy Public Radio, which serves an audience of around 45,000 listeners both on-air and online in Southeast Alabama, Western Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle. I am the Director of the station, overseeing a dedicated team of eight full-time and part-time employees. My colleagues and I are honored to serve our listeners with both locally and nationally produced programming. Given our geographic and demographic coverage area, we reach a wide range of listeners in both rural and urban communities, including Montgomery, the capital city, and multiple college towns. We engage with listeners from diverse backgrounds and political viewpoints on their way to the statehouse, schoolhouse, in their tractors, and on their daily commutes.

The one thing this diverse group of listeners has in common is how much they value and depend on the service and information Troy Public Radio provides. In times of crisis, such as the recent tornado near Troy, AL, and during the pandemic, we have heard how vital we are to maintaining community connections. As a key part of the Emergency Alert System in Alabama, we are a necessary source of broadcasting dangerous weather alerts that have saved lives during hurricanes and tornadoes.

Not only are we one of the few locally owned and independent broadcasters in our area, but we are also one of the few regional training grounds for students pursuing audio journalism, both broadcast and podcast. In the past twelve years, we have mentored over a hundred students who are now at major networks and regional stations in radio and television across the country. Our graduates have gone on to work for NPR, PBS, NBC, the Smithsonian, and USA Today. Many have also taken high-ranking positions in the corporate, non-profit, and government sectors, with a significant percentage pursuing careers in medicine and law.

We are very proud of our student program and our close relationship with the Troy University Hall School of Journalism. Over the years, many students have won first

place in national and regional competitions and have been admitted to prestigious fellowship and training programs. Training the next generation of community reporters and journalists is extremely important to us.

Given that our coverage spans multiple bases, we are cognizant of our responsibilities to both current military personnel and veterans. Annually in November, we promote the oral history program StoryCorps, often focusing on facilitating the recording and preservation of veterans' stories. We also take great care in telling the stories of distinguished veterans in our communities, such as Command Sgt. Bennie G. Adkins, who was awarded the Medal of Honor, and Romay Davis, a member of the Six Triple Eight Postal Battalion who was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

We also produce fourteen podcasts in collaboration with Troy University on topics ranging from history, business, nursing, education, the fine arts, and literature. One of our upcoming podcast projects is a collaboration with "Short the Squirrel," Alabama's Literacy Ambassador recognized by Governor Kay Ivey. We also partner with Alabama Public Television's Don Noble to produce "Alabama Aloud," which focuses on the literary works of authors from the state and stories set in Alabama.

We take great pride in our collaboration with Alabama Public Television's "Capitol Journal," which broadcasts news and coverage of the legislature to viewers across the state. Every week, CJ's Todd Stacy joins Carolyn Hutcheson, the award-winning host of "In Focus," for a weekly wrap-up of political news and information listeners need to know from the statehouse.

All these efforts receive some level of support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Community Services Grant. From the local news stories and interviews we produce and report, to the music programming we create and acquire, to the weather information and alerts we distribute, the funding we receive from both the CPB-CSG, in conjunction with support from our donors and Troy University, makes everything we do possible.

We urge you to preserve the longstanding, bipartisan support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and, by extension, the Community Services Grant, which supports Troy Public Radio. Our listeners depend on us, and we depend on you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kyle D. Gassiot". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent "K" and a stylized "G".

Kyle D. Gassiot
Director, Troy Public Radio