

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

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

Launched in 1988, independently owned and operated by Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas KRPS broadcasts into a 100-mile radius from our transmitter site from the farmland of Weir, KS. The station is housed on the campus of Pittsburg State just four miles east of the Kansas/Missouri border and 36 miles north of the Kansas/Oklahoma border.

KRPS is the smallest NPR station in Kansas and Missouri with currently four full-time employees and a contract engineer. Regardless of our small size KRPS has live, locally produced news and hosting weekdays. I also wanted to take this time to highlight two of KRPS's recent hires and share their importance of their work.

This January KRPS hired a dedicated [Southwest Missouri feature reporter Rachel Schnelle](#) who is from and resides in Lockwood, Missouri. Rachel graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism and thoroughly understands the important news topics of the state. During Rachel's time at KRPS, she has reported on rural topics such as how 'Extremely Cold Weather Affects Livestock' in addition to more urban news such as "How the City of Joplin, Mo is Addressing Homelessness". Rachel also recently conducted a two-way interview with the Mayor of Joplin, Kenan Cortez, the city's first African American male Mayor in Joplin's 152-year history about his priorities this year.

Last week Rachel published an excellent feature regarding a Netflix documentary about the 2011 Joplin EF-5 tornado that killed 158 people. Unlike KRPS's commercial counterparts in radio and television KRPS hires reporters who grow up and are from our listening area of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Unlike local commercial radio and television stations who hire reporters from outside the area and possess zero knowledge about the history and news topics important to Missouri residents.

Late last year, KRPS also hired [Kansas's own Raegan Neufeld](#), a recent graduate from Fort Hays State with a background specifically in radio. Raegan is KRPS's afternoon, All Things Considered host and Arts and Culture reporter. Growing up in Inman, Kansas Raegan caught the 'radio bug' in high school and attended Fort Hays with the goal of working in non-commercial broadcasting. Even in the few months Raegan has been with KRPS she has contributed great reporting such as her interview with Southeast Kansas native and Super Bowl official Mark Stewart and her coverage on Pittsburg State's Women's basketball team and their run to this season's Elite Eight in the NCAA Division 2 tournament.

Rachel and Raegan's independent news coverage are prime examples of KRPS's work as a community service driven organization. Their work are instances that KRPS is never driven by profit and never will be.

In addition to Rachel and Raegan's reporting KRPS has enjoyed an excellent partnership with NPR since the station's first broadcast in 1988. Regardless of whether a listener is in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma or Arkansas they know they can rely on KRPS and NPR to provide fact-based journalism that they can trust. Listeners can also trust that KRPS will always be free regardless if they donate or not.

KRPS has a dedicated base of listeners who contribute and help support the station. Regardless of the generosity of our donors from Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas KRPS relies on the Community Service Grant provided by the Cooperation of Public Broadcasting to assist with paying for programming, salaries, and station upgrades.

The four-member KRPS staff work tirelessly however the station broadcasts into a largely rural area and many of our listeners do not have the financial means to help support the station.

When you reside in large metropolitan cities like Washington D.C. that have endless news media and coverage it's easy to forget how those of us who work in and report on rural parts of our country survive.

KRPS's partnership with NPR with financial assistance from CPB is essential to the station's future.

Because of the groundwork that NPR has done on behalf of local member stations, KRPS was able to launch and update its own website, KRPS.org, share our local news stories and have our audio stream on a nationwide platform through NPR's app, and receive engineering assistance from NPR 24/7.

Currently, KRPS is in the midst of a station relocation, our first in 36 years and we have relied on engineers at NPR numerous times to help us resolve broadcast issues. One such instance occurred last December when one of our broadcast receivers failed taking KRPS's live broadcasts offline.

After speaking with engineers at NPR we received a new receiver 21 hours later at no cost to KRPS and we were able to resume live broadcasts less than an hour after receiving it.

Even though Pittsburg, KS, and Washington D.C. are nearly 1,200 miles away the decades-old relationship that KPRS and NPR has established is as strong as you will find in broadcasting, commercial or non-commercial.

Regardless of the strength of that relationship, KRPS is independently owned, operated, and programmed by staff employed by the State of Kansas.

We make decisions locally that are only in the best interests of our listeners and employees.

For example KRPS doesn't solely rely on NPR for programming; we also work with American Public Media and the Public Radio Exchange to bring our listeners the best of public radio. In fact, on any given day over 50% of KRPS's broadcast schedule are programs from sources **that are not NPR** such as other public radio stations, independent radio shows, and the BBC World Service. And that's the strength of the public radio system. Local stations decide what works for them locally.

Thank you,
Fred Fletcher-Fierro
Morning Edition host, Program Director and General Manager
89.9 FM KRPS Four States Public Radio
Pittsburg, KS

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

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