



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,

As you contemplate the future of public media, I want to provide some perspective on the service that WBUR provides to our community. We are an independent locally owned, nonprofit organization, with an FCC license held by Boston University. Our broadcast signal reaches across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts — and dips south into Rhode Island and north into New Hampshire.

Our mission is to produce high-quality journalism and enriching experiences that foster understanding, connection and community for an expanding circle of people. WBUR is a trusted and beloved news source for every person in Boston and the region who seeks to engage with the most consequential issues of our time.

WBUR has one of the strongest local newsrooms in the country — dedicated to telling stories of significance to our local audience. Our journalists cover everything from Boston City Hall to the Massachusetts State House, local business, transportation, health, education, the environment and the arts. Every day, WBUR provides essential local coverage that helps our community make sense of what's happening in the region. This includes substantive conversations with members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation and other public officials. Our critical community service allows Massachusetts citizens to understand how they're being represented in Washington and how the issues playing out in the nation's capital impact us here at home. Mayor Michelle Wu and Governor Maura Healey are also frequent WBUR guests — providing insight into how they are serving the community. It's important to note that all editorial decisions about our local coverage are made by professional journalists who live and work in the communities we serve. Some 350,000 people listen to WBUR each week.

The WBUR editorial team also produces a rich roster of newsletters, designed to serve our local community in a variety of ways. From WBUR Today, a daily rundown of stories most relevant to people's lives, to CommonHealth, a weekly report on the latest local health, medical research and science news, and Field Guide to Boston, which helps our citizens understand, navigate and enjoy this place we all call home. All told, more than 80,000 people subscribe to these public service offerings and more than 275,000 local and loyal readers turn to [WBUR.org](https://www.wbur.org) each month to meet their news and information needs. At the same time, WBUR CitySpace on Commonwealth Avenue in





Boston is where we bring our community together to grapple with today's most pressing issues and to experience the arts and culture of our region. Local civic and business leaders, newsmakers, authors and artists frequent the CitySpace stage for the benefit of our entire community.

In addition, we work closely with our public radio colleagues as part of the New England News Collaborative to tell stories that inform our connected and rapidly changing region. We partner with numerous local news organizations. For example, we collaborate and share stories with El Planeta, which also translates some of our coverage so Spanish speaking readers have access to the high-quality news and information we produce. The Dorchester Reporter, MassLive and WCVB TV are also partners. We believe in making our coverage available to as many people in the Commonwealth as we can. This reflects our values and our commitment to our public service mission.

Importantly, WBUR has no paywall and no subscription fees. Like NPR, and public media generally, we are a nonpartisan public service for all Americans. Community support makes our news and programming free and available to everyone — not just those who can afford to pay. We are motivated by our mission and not by financial gain.

To add dimension to our local programming, we acquire programming from a number of national producers, including NPR. As an NPR Member — in addition to its national and international news programming — WBUR receives services such as opportunities for collaborative journalism with more than 200 independent newsrooms in the NPR Network, the negotiation of music rights to enrich our programming, fundraising support and audience research. These services help us achieve financial sustainability and audience growth.

Federal grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) are an essential investment in our community. This funding allows us to leverage federal dollars into support from local sources. For every federal dollar invested through the CPB, WBUR raises some \$15 locally. This is a perfect example of a successful public-private partnership. Nearly half of WBUR's annual budget comes from donations from our local audience — on top of those member contributions, we get millions of dollars in support from local businesses. The presence of these businesses on WBUR helps insure their long-term future and a healthy local economy.

My colleagues and I urge Congress to preserve its longstanding bipartisan support for public media.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Low".

Margaret Low
Chief Executive Officer, WBUR