



March 21, 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

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

For decades, Congress' bipartisan investment in public broadcasting has been a partnership that delivers real value over the air, online and on the ground for our citizens. Please don't allow that to end. WNIN Tri State Public Media serves communities in parts of Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. Only a third of our annual budget is made up of federal grant dollars distributed by Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Over two-thirds of our annual budget comes from local corporate entities, some state funding and truly local dollars from individuals and community events that WNIN hosts. The federal funding we receive allows us to spend our local dollars on local news coverage, local education projects; local community endeavors...in a word, local. Federal funding has always been critical to our local work and critical to our existence.

WNIN tells local stories through daily local news coverage and with long-form local shows. WNIN provides locally hosted local news and information segments...including local weather and local traffic...daily inside morning and afternoon national news programming. We produce two, local, hour-long radio shows each week: TWO MAIN STREET with DAVID JAMES and THE FRIDAY WRAP with JOHN GIBSON. TWO MAIN STREET focuses on interviews with local authors, the leaders of local organizations and various human interest stories. THE FRIDAY WRAP looks back at the week's local news and community events, often featuring journalists from other local media and the community events leaders at local organizations. FRIDAY WRAP often devotes segments to local high school and college sports. WNIN is part of a network of other local, public media stations in Indiana. The assistance of federal grant dollars allows us to, specifically; distribute the annual "State of the State" and "State of the Judiciary" addresses to our local audiences. We also produce two, local podcasts featuring local food growers and our local Philharmonic. Additionally, we provide online coverage and distribution of our local Rotary club meetings and speakers. Rotary club members are able to get attendance credit by watching meeting content on the WNIN website. Most notably, virtually NONE of this local content is available anywhere else in our communities. Our local newspapers are going away. Our local, commercial broadcast brethren may cover some of the same but devote 30 seconds to the story while WNIN may devote 30 minutes. Local storytelling and local information is important to our communities and WNIN is where to find it.

WNIN plays a critical role in local weather warning and emergency alert systems, helping to keep our local citizens and communities safe. We are equipped with data casting capabilities to bolster local schools' education and security measures. These are expensive capital investments in our local areas that are only possible because of the federal grant dollars that



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allow us to off-set total costs by supplementing local contributions we receive from local donors and corporate citizens.

I think it's extremely important to point out that the federal dollars we receive at the local station level are not a "hand out". The Corporation for Public Broadcasting requires WNIN to go through a rigorous and detailed application process each fiscal year in order to receive our federal grant. At bottom we MUST demonstrate that we are doing our part to solicit and receive local funding through a combination of corporate grants and underwriting support, sometimes state support and individual donations. At WNIN over 50% of our annual operating budget consists of these local dollars. We simply won't receive the federal dollars without the local dollars. Federal support is essential to what we do locally. Recent math indicates that for every federal dollar we receive we are able to generate five to seven dollars in local support. The federal-local funding model works and I contend it works the way it should!

Federal support is essential to the existence of my station and to the local news, information and service we provide to my community. What WNIN does is important. Yes, we provide national public media programming but we do so much more...locally. Just this week, one of WNIN's local supporters sent a hand-written note containing her thanks for the programming we provide and her gift of \$6...a one-dollar bill and a five-dollar bill. This is why I love what I do and why WNIN's staff covers and informs our communities each day. We urge Congress to preserve its longstanding bipartisan support for public media.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Black". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Black" clearly distinguishable.

Tim Black, WNIN Tri State Public Media President & CEO  
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WNIN is a trusted partner of local schools, primarily helping the states within our coverage area to build literacy, math and science skills. Generations of local children have become better prepared for school and for life in part because of the tools we provide. WNIN, public media in general, has become known as the largest Pre-K classroom in our communities. We take that responsibility very seriously. WNIN partnered with local school corporations, many of them rural and without adequate internet/broadband service, during the COVID pandemic to distribute educational programming for those students at home. The partnership worked so well that many of the school systems have continued providing at-home learning programming to WNIN to air on our broadcast platform during the summer months.

WNIN tells local stories through daily local News-in-Review segments, local community affairs shows and long-form documentary programming. WNIN produces four, local, community and public affairs shows each week: NEWSMAKERS, LAWMAKERS, SHIVELY & SHOULDERS, and TWO MAIN STREET with DAVID JAMES. NEWSMAKERS focuses on a community issue/topic each week and interviews guests who are knowledgeable of and involved with the issue. LAWMAKERS is a forum for discussion/interview with local state lawmakers during state legislative sessions, SHIVELY & SHOULDERS is a lively discussion program hosted by popular local officials known through the region about local political issues and TWO MAIN STREET focuses on interviews with local authors, the leaders of local organizations and various human interest stories. WNIN is part of a network of other local, public media stations in Indiana. The assistance of federal grant dollars allows us to, specifically; distribute the annual "State of the State" and "State of the Judiciary" addresses to our local audiences. We also produce two, local podcasts featuring local food growers and our local Philharmonic. Additionally, we provide online coverage and distribution of our local Rotary club meetings and speakers. Rotary club members are able to get attendance credit by watching meeting content on the WNIN website. Most notably, virtually NONE of this local content is available anywhere else in our communities.



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WNIN, as it has for several years, broadcasts and streams the annual Fourth of July Fireworks show from the Ohio River. WNIN hosts local candidate forums during election seasons. All our public affairs programming and forums offer guests, lawmakers and political candidates the opportunity to appear in informational settings not combative interviews.

WNIN also produces and airs award-winning documentaries about local people, institutions and stories. Monumental Honor traveled with local veterans on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC to visit monuments on the National Mall erected in their honor. Homegrown Heritage focused on the family farm in our local region. The Historic Churches of Evansville looked at ten of the older churches in our area and examined the architecture as well as the founding congregations. Evansville at War examined the critical role Evansville and its citizens played in the weapon and artillery manufacturing infrastructure during World War II.

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