

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2006

The Honorable Ralph Regula  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS  
and Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Obey  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS  
and Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman/Mr. Ranking Member:

Local public television and radio stations have enriched millions of lives since Congress passed the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 and deservedly enjoy widespread support. Certainly, we know of no other appropriated federal program that many of our constituents *voluntarily* help to fund through membership contributions.

In fact, more than 80 percent of public broadcasting's annual funding comes from sources other than the federal government. However, stable federal appropriations are the foundation upon which local public stations rely. Therefore, we ask that you support FY 2007 and FY 2009 funding for public broadcasting at levels that are, at least, equal to those enacted by Congress last year. Specifically, we ask you to support:

**CPB Funding and Localism**

Every public television and radio station is *locally* controlled and programmed by states, universities, or local community boards. Supporting local stations' public service mission is the primary function of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), which distributes nearly 71 percent of its annual appropriation directly to stations in the form of Community Service Grants. Thus, any cut in CPB's general funding *would be felt immediately* in our districts, falling most heavily on rural stations (which rely most heavily on the CPB grant) and on local services and programming—the very essence of localism Congress seeks to promote.

CPB is advance appropriated, a practice which costs the Treasury nothing but provides a basis of certainty from which local stations can develop programming and raise the rest of their budgets. CPB has requested \$430 million for FY 2009, a \$30 million increase above FY 2008. CPB's general appropriation has not been increased in several years; nevertheless, the proposed increase would not even cover the additional electricity costs that public television stations must bear to operate both a digital and analog transmitter. If approved, it would allow an individual station's grant to increase by about \$20,000.

**CPB and Digital Technology**

Congress has just recently approved a February, 2009 "hard date" to shut off the analog television broadcast spectrum. Many Public Television stations will be "moving" to a new, final channel assignment—which in turn requires investing in additional technology. Meanwhile, nearly all public television stations and more than half of all public radio stations have converted to digital transmission. Local public television stations, in fact,

have raised more than \$1.1 billion for this purpose, from all sources. Public broadcasters are seeking \$40 million for FY 2007 to continue the transition, an increase of \$10 million.

In addition, since 1967, CPB has provided funding for national interconnection that allows for distribution of programming through systems for both television and radio. Interconnection is the means by which national programming is distributed to all local stations. The past three years, Congress has appropriated money to replace and update the television interconnection system, known as the Next Generation Interconnection System (NGIS). The Department of Homeland Security has also been testing this system as a foundation for a new digital Emergency Alert System (D-EAS); the scope of the test will expand this year to a phased national roll-out. The interconnection request is for \$36 million which, if fully funded, would enable the completion of the NGIS in FY 2007.

### **Educational Technology**

Education and learning has long been the core mission of local public broadcasting; in fact, many local stations are licensed to universities and other educational institutions. The introduction of digital technology has greatly strengthened the ability of public broadcasters to deliver educational and learning services. Congress recognized the power of television as a learning tool in 2001 when it authorized two programs, Ready To Learn and Ready To Teach, under the No Child Left Behind Act.

Ready To Learn harnesses television's universal reach to improve early childhood learning, while Ready To Teach uses technology to develop more highly qualified teachers to measurably increase student performance. Last year, the Department of Education awarded a new round of grants aimed at creating a new generation of content to support early childhood learning—especially focused on literacy—and teacher professional development. Ready To Learn received a small increase last year, while Ready To Teach sustained a substantial cut. It is requested that funding for both programs be increased in FY 2007 to \$32 million for Ready To Learn and \$15 million for Ready to Teach. This will ensure that both programs will have adequate resources to fulfill the goals established by the most recent grant round.

We believe the funding your subcommittee approves will determine whether public broadcasting's potential to serve our communities can continue to be realized. To that end, we ask that your subcommittee approve adequate FY 2007 appropriations for public broadcasting accounts.

Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Paul Gillmor  
Member of Congress

*Louise M. Slaughter*

Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress

*John Conyers*

John Conyers  
Member of Congress

*Norm Dicks*

Norman Dicks  
Member of Congress

*Ron Lewis*

Ron Lewis  
Member of Congress

*Rubén Hinojosa*

Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress

*Tom Lantos*

Tom Lantos  
Member of Congress

*Bill Delahunt*

William Delahunt  
Member of Congress

*Nancy Johnson*

Nancy Johnson  
Member of Congress

*Corrine Brown*

Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

*James Oberstar*

James Oberstar  
Member of Congress

*Mike McIntyre*

Mike McIntyre  
Member of Congress

*Bart Stupak*

Bart Stupak  
Member of Congress

*Maurice Hinchey*

Maurice Hinchey  
Member of Congress

*Martin O. Sabo*

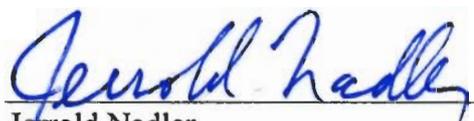
Martin Sabo  
Member of Congress

*Darlene Hooley*

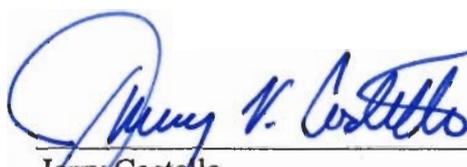
Darlene Hooley  
Member of Congress

*Gene Green*

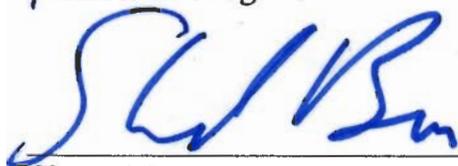
Gene Green  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



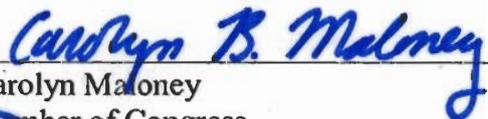
Jerry Costello  
Member of Congress



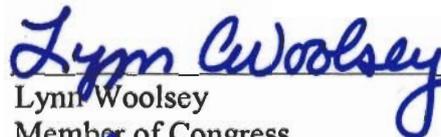
Sherrod Brown  
Member of Congress



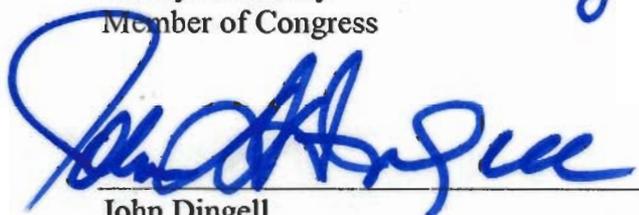
Richard Neal  
Member of Congress



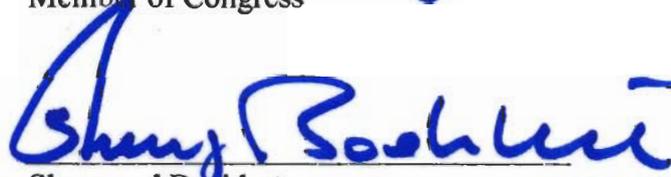
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



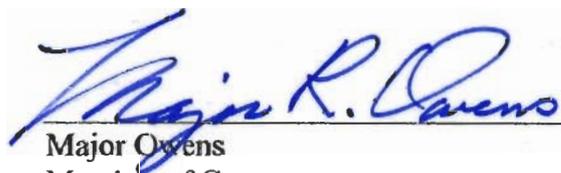
Lynn Woolsey  
Member of Congress



John Dingell  
Member of Congress



Sherwood Boehlert  
Member of Congress



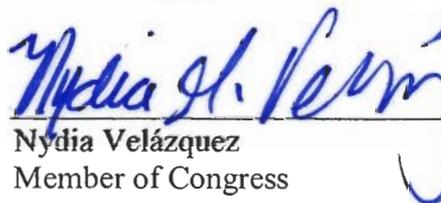
Major Owens  
Member of Congress



Gary Ackerman  
Member of Congress



Nick Rahall  
Member of Congress



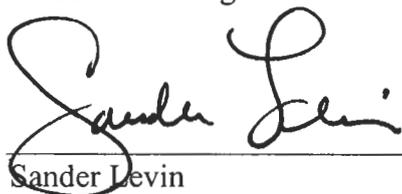
Nydia Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Bart Gordon  
Member of Congress



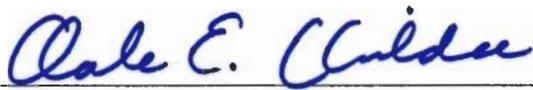
Jim Moran  
Member of Congress



Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



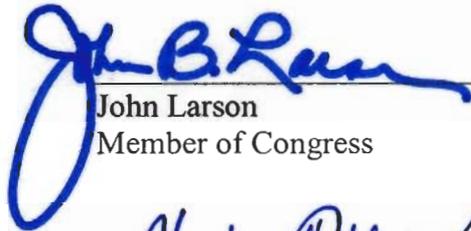
Bernie Sanders  
Member of Congress



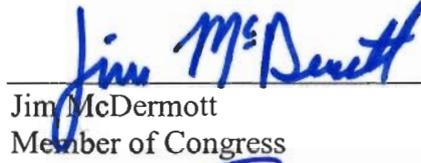
Dale Kildee  
Member of Congress



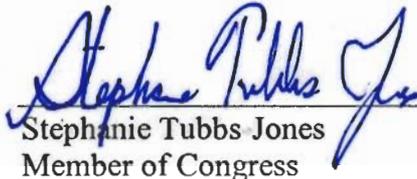
Ellen Tauscher  
Member of Congress



John Larson  
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Jim McDermott  
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Stephanie Tubbs Jones  
Member of Congress



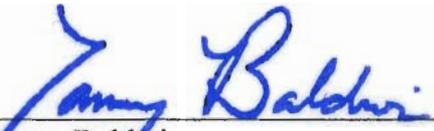
Anthony Weiner  
Member of Congress



Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



Christopher Shays  
Member of Congress



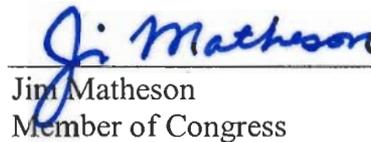
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress



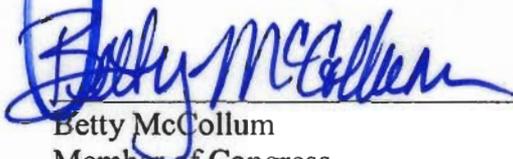
Tom Allen  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



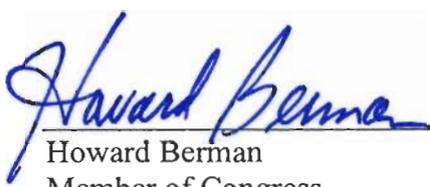
David Reichert  
Member of Congress

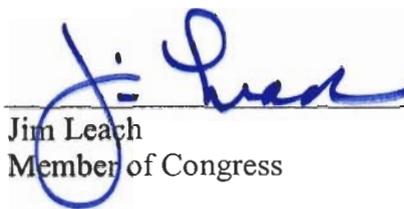


Todd Platts  
Member of Congress



Susan Davis  
Member of Congress

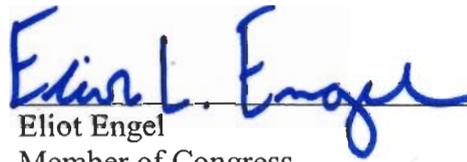
  
Howard Berman  
Member of Congress

  
Jim Leach  
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Lane Evans  
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Fred Upton  
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Michael McNulty  
Member of Congress

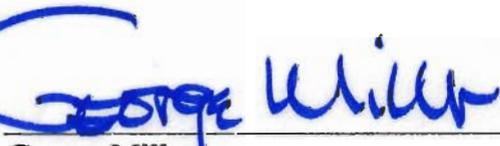
  
Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress

  
Benjamin Cardin  
Member of Congress

  
Collin Peterson  
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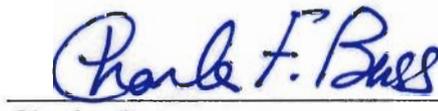
  
Ike Skelton  
Member of Congress

  
Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

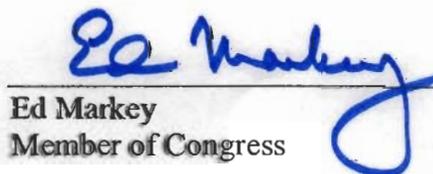
  
George Miller  
Member of Congress

  
William Jefferson  
Member of Congress

  
Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress

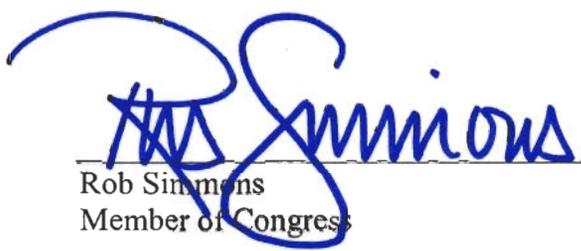
  
Charles Bass  
Member of Congress

  
Rick Boucher  
Member of Congress

  
Ed Markey  
Member of Congress



Jim Ramstad  
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Rob Simmons  
Member of Congress



Ed Case  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



Diane Watson  
Member of Congress

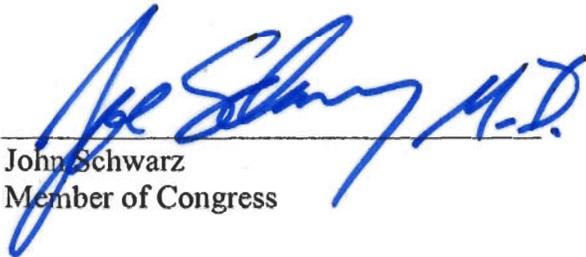
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



John Schwarz  
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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



William Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



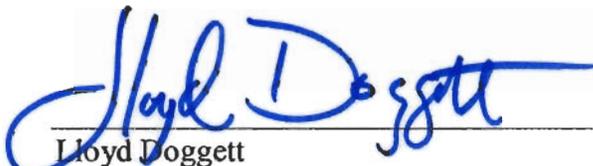
Forney Pete Stark  
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Dave Camp  
Member of Congress



Mark Udall  
Member of Congress



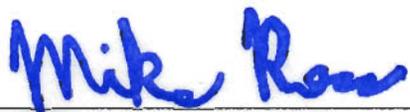
Lloyd Doggett  
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Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo  
Member of Congress

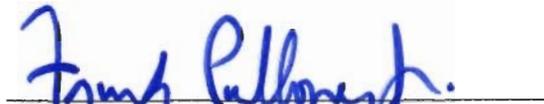


Mike Ross  
Member of Congress



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Stephen Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Frank Pallone  
Member of Congress



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Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress



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Allyson Schwartz  
Member of Congress



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Charlie Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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James McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Stephanie Herseth  
Member of Congress



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Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



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John Lewis  
Member of Congress



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Dennis Cardoza  
Member of Congress



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Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress



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Michael Michaud  
Member of Congress



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Jim Davis  
Member of Congress



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Tom Osborne  
Member of Congress



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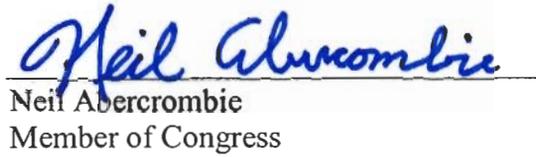
David Scott  
Member of Congress

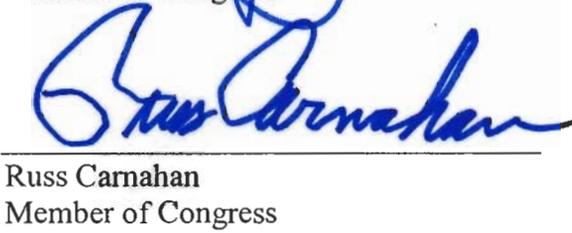


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John Shimkus  
Member of Congress

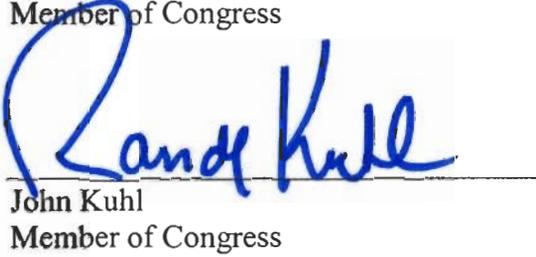
  
Timothy Johnson  
Member of Congress

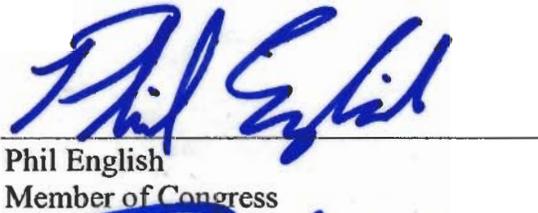
  
Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress

  
Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress

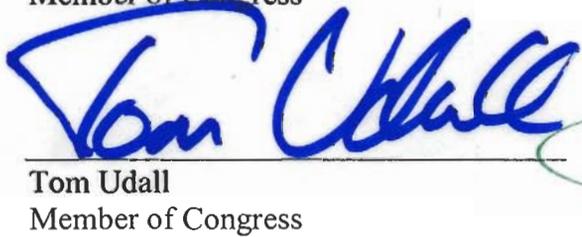
  
Ben Chandler  
Member of Congress

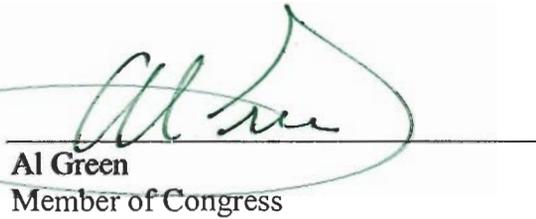
  
Ron Kind  
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John Kuhl  
Member of Congress

  
Phil English  
Member of Congress

  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

  
Tom Udall  
Member of Congress

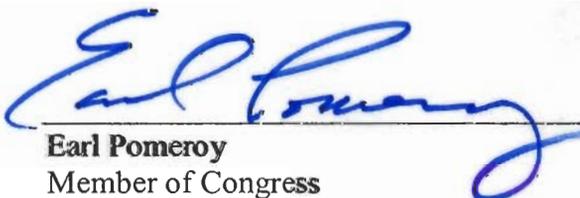
  
Al Green  
Member of Congress

  
Leonard Boswell  
Member of Congress

  
Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress

  
Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress

  
Julia Carson  
Member of Congress

  
Earl Pomeroy  
Member of Congress

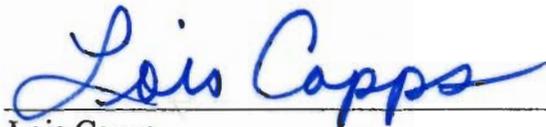
  
Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



Thaddeus McCotter  
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Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks  
Member of Congress



Mike Honda  
Member of Congress



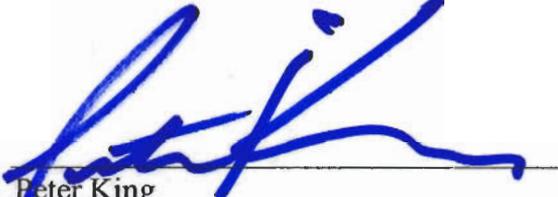
Brad Miller  
Member of Congress



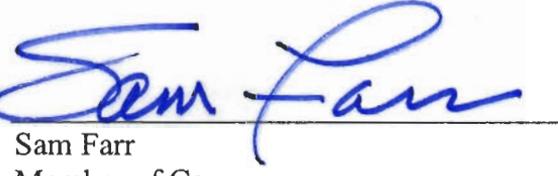
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress



Peter King  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



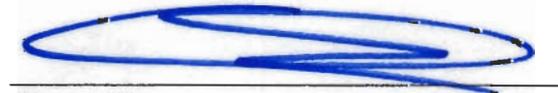
Bill Pascrell  
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Greg Walden  
Member of Congress



David Wu  
Member of Congress