Executive Director's Report

Educational Telecommunications Board of Director

October 10, 2017

National Update:

Budget -

In early October, both the House and Senate took steps to advance the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Congressional Budget Resolution, which sets the topline spending amounts for the federal government in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. This year, the budget resolution process has trailed the appropriations process. Both the House and the Senate have already made significant progress on the advancement of FY 2018 appropriations bills, which set individual spending amounts for each federally funded program.

The House has passed its version of the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Education) appropriations bill that includes $445 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and $27.7 million for Ready To Learn (but nothing for the third installment of funding for the new interconnection system).

The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved $445 million for CPB, $27.7 million for Ready To Learn, and $20 million for a new annual account covering both interconnection and infrastructure expenses for public broadcasting, but the full Senate has not yet acted on this bill.

Congress still needs to pass the FY 2018 Budget Resolution because it will become the vehicle that allows for expedited tax reform through the process of reconciliation, which enables the Senate to pass legislation with a simple majority of 51 votes.

The Senate Budget Committee met on October 4 and 5 to mark-up its version of the FY 2018 Congressional Budget Resolution. The resolution passed on a strict party-line vote of 12-11. APTS is very pleased to report that the Senate Budget Resolution contains language that allows the Appropriations Committee to include the two-year advance funding mechanism for CPB in FY 2018 appropriations legislation.

The full House also met this week to debate and pass its version of the FY 2018 Congressional Budget Resolution. The resolution was passed by a vote of 219-206. Unfortunately, the House Budget did not include specific language allowing for the two-year advance funding mechanism for CPB in the FY 2018 appropriations bills. However, two-year advanced CPB funding has already been included in the FY 2018 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, which was passed on the House floor last month. At this point, APTS does not believe that that the advance funding mechanism will be challenged during the final consideration of the FY 2018 funding bills.

The driving force for the consideration of the FY 2018 Congressional Budget Resolution is the desire to complete tax reform legislation. APTS does not anticipate that the budget will have an effect on the FY

2018 appropriations process, which is already well underway. As a reminder, the federal government is currently operating under a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR), which expires on December 8, 2017. Congress will either have to complete consideration of FY 2018 funding bills by that date or pass another CR to keep the government open.

Local Update:

Black Hills Bureau – While the official ribbon cutting for the BHB isn't until later this month the Black Hills Bureau has already been busy fulfilling its mission of creating local content and offering opportunities for public engagement. In the Moment broadcast from the new studio in August, SD Focus broadcast a live show in September. Screenings for Vietnam and our Post 22 Legion documentary were also held at the bureau. The week of our board meeting with be packed full with numerous events and hosting Paula Kerger, President of PBS. Below is a schedule of events which you are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, October 24

5:15-6:15 Joint Appropriations Committee visit and site tour

Wednesday, October 25

3-5:30pm "On the Knife's Edge" Documentary Screening and Discussion (BHB, SDCF Gallery)
Screening of a locally produced documentary about a family from Pine Ridge. SDPB did not produce this program, but is airing.
3pm Screening
4:30pm Q&A Session with Producers and Documentary Subjects

Thursday, October 26

10am Educational Telecommunications Board Meeting (BHB, SDCF Gallery)
3–4:30pm Black Hills Bureau Donor Thank You Event (BHB, SDCF Gallery)
4:30–6:30p Black Hills Bureau Ribbon Cutting & Open House (BHB, SDCF Gallery)
Public grand opening event
7pm Donor Dinner with Paula Kerger (Alex Johnson Hotel)
Donor only dinner event with Kerger for donors who make a $500 gift to Friends.

FRIDAY, October 27

7:00am Morning Fill Up at the Garage (The Garage)
Public event featuring Kerger from our content partner, The Garage.
9:00am Friends of SDPB Board Meeting (BHB, SDCF Gallery)
11:30am Black Hills Forum and Press Club (Hilton Garden Inn)
3:30pm Black Hills by Choice Donor Event with the Black Hills Area Community Foundation (BHB, SDCF Gallery)
Donor reception for Black Hills Area Community Foundation donors.

Sioux Falls Studios - We have signed a contract with Lloyd properties for new rental space at 601 N Phillips (across the street from the new Levitt Performance Center). The space will be slightly larger than Rapid City. It will become the permanent home for radio's In the Moment and Jazz Nightly. It will also provide office space for three Friends employees, two beat reporters, a digital/TV producer and hopefully someday a community outreach coordinator.

We are currently working with the architect to design the layout for the space and finalizing fundraising campaign plans.

Expected move in Spring of 2018.

FY19 Budget request - SDPB is requesting an additional staff person and associated personnel costs to take over the coordination of SD.Net. Since launching the expanded streaming service in January, Board, Commission and agency usage has continued to grow and is expected to continue growing throughout the coming year.