Educational Telecommunications Board of Directors

Executive Director’s Report

March 4, 2025

**National Update:**

Public Broadcasting is under threat nationally as well as at home.  The presidents of PBS and NPR have been asked to testify in front of Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) and her subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency (DOGE).  Greene’s request cites concerns about the potential use of federal funds to produce biased content and programming.  The hearing will take place later this month.

Additionally, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Brendan Carr sent a letter to PBS, NPR and some PBS/NPR affiliates requesting information on underwriting credits and policies and the Administration’s efforts to examine every line item of federal spending for possible elimination, have marked the beginning of the serious threats the public media systems we have been preparing for.

**Local Update:**

Despite the SDPB budget battle, work has continued as usual at the network.  We have further refined our planning around covering legislative session with Cara Hetland’s team taking the lead in day-to-day coverage of session activities and news.  Brad Van Osdel’s team has been able to focus their attention on SDHSAA activities and Dakota Life.  These tweaks have allowed us to continue our work with less staff and contractual help.

The Friends of SDPB staff and board have been working very hard on advocacy the past few months.  I commend them for their efforts to restore the proposed funding cuts to SDPB’s budget.  We were hoping to be through the appropriations process by now, however it looks more likely SDPB’s budget will not be on the appropriations committee agenda until next week.

Everything we are seeing and hearing looks favorable for some or all of our budget to be restored.  We will continue to monitor the situation closely.