**Educational Telecommunications Board of Directors**

**Executive Director’s Report**

**July 9, 2025**

**National Update:**

Since this board last met, the administration put forward a request to congress to rescind public broadcasting’s already approved funding for fiscal years 26 and 27 as well as funding for USDAID. Congress approved the request and sent it to the Senate. The Senate has until July 18 to act on the rescission request.

The request was referred to the Senate appropriations committee which held a hearing on the proposed cuts in June. Senator Rounds serves on the appropriations committee and expressed his concern for the impact these rescissions could have on rural and tribal stations.

We are hearing and anticipating the Senate will discharge the committee from its duties and move the discussion on rescissions to the Senate floor next week. The expectation is there will be multiple amendments put forward for debate.

If the rescission passes as it currently is written, SDPB would stand to lose $2.2 - $2.5M annually starting this October with the new federal fiscal year.

Now that congress has passed the Big Beautiful Bill and once, they address the rescission package, we expect them to quickly move into the FY26 budgeting process. Public Broadcasting is zeroed out in the President’s proposed budget which would fund us for FY28.

Public Broadcasting has not been reauthorized by congress since 1994. There are many who expect a push to reopen the bill authorizing us and stipulating to the CPB how the dollars appropriated are to be distributed. I am hearing quite a bit of chatter about congress’s desire to eliminate direct funding to NPR. Time will tell.

**Local Update:**

I am very pleased to report, SDPB was awarded the next 5-year contract with the State High School Activities Association. We did have competition during the bid process for the first time in many years. We are grateful the association decided to stay with SDPB and recognized our long-term relationship. There were concerns expressed about our on-going funding battles and how that could potentially impact our ability to meet contractual obligations. I did assure the association we value this partnership and place a high priority on service to our students and families. We are currently reviewing the new contract and expect to have it signed and an official press release sent out in the next week.

SDPB was just informed we were awarded a new grant from CPB to expand local news reporting in South Dakota. Minnesota Public Radio is leading the grant project. South Dakota, North Dakota and Wisconsin Public Radio are the partnering stations. We will all receive 2-year funding to hire a reporter. MPR will coordinate the grant and hire additional editors to work with partnering stations. The goal is to boost local and regional coverage with a special focus on Native American news and stories. We hope this will create a wider distribution network and greater collaboration among the upper Midwest consortia.

We are currently working through the FY27 budget request process with BIT and our BFM representative. SDPB is not requesting any new funding in the FY27 budget. We will be requesting $3.3M in federal authority related to our pending FEMA grant. While we have been notified of our grant award, CPB is holding on signing any new contracts while they continue to work through issues with FEMA. Some stations who had already expended their own funds related to FEMA grant awards were having their reimbursements held up by FEMA. CPB is trying to iron out the process before adding any new grantees into the mix. This grant project continues to be a congressional priority and was just awarded an additional $40M. Hopefully, details and processes get smoothed out and we can get our grant contract in the near term. The $3.3M in federal authority SPDB was given by the state expired at the end of June.