***Educational Telecommunications Boards of Directors***

***Executive Director’s Report***

***December 20, 2022***

Since we last met there have been positive developments at South Dakota Public Broadcasting!

The Governor is recommending roughly $6.7M in new, one-time funding for SDPB. We hope to use these dollars to match infrastructure grants and upgrade our EAS system. The funding bill for SDPB is included at the end of my report.

Included in your board information you have a draft copy of the audit for SDPB. We will vote for approval at our upcoming board meeting. After the difficulties we experienced last year, it is wonderful to be ahead of deadlines this year and no major issues raised.

Additionally, Congress is poised to pass a favorable budget for public broadcasting stations across the country. Included in the funding package is $56M in infrastructure grants SDPB can apply to. This marks the first time in over a decade SDPB has had access to matching grant funds to replace aging infrastructure. I’ve included the memo from NPR below. I expect further updates from CPB to be forthcoming.

From NPR on the 20th of December:

Dear Colleagues,

Today, the Appropriations Committees released the draft FY2023 Omnibus appropriations bill, which includes the following funding for public media:

•    **$535M in two-year advance (FY2025) funding for CPB**, a $10M increase over FY2022/2024 funding. With this appropriation, we have successfully advocated for $110M in increases to CPB’s base funding over the past four years. The Senate Appropriations Committee noted in [the bill summary](https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/LHHS%20FY%2023.pdf) that this funding “is particularly important for rural grantees, half of whom rely on CPB funding for at least 25 percent of their revenue,” which is a statistic highlighted in the report we issued this fall, “[Connecting America: The Essential Service of Rural Public Radio](https://allianceofruralpublicmedia.app.box.com/s/g6q0rngabxpz6qtv9k8nv9lu6y6iql1b).”

•    **$60M in interconnection funding** to support public radio and television interconnection systems, as well as investments in system-wide digital infrastructure.  That is triple – a $40M increase – the FY2022 funding.

•    **$56M in FEMA funding for the Next Generation Warning System**, the competitive grants program that supports emergency alerting infrastructure. This is the second year of funding for the program, and the final number is **$16M over the initial request**—signaling the strong support of the Committee for this program and your role in public safety and emergency alerting.
**Collectively, these increases will add $66M to the public media system.**

From the Governor’s office:

**2023 Bill Draft: BIT - 01**

Most recent version as of:  **1:35 Pm 12/12/2022 RLW**

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to make an appropriation to the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications for the upgrade of emergency systems and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

Section 1. There is hereby appropriated the sum of two million, one hundred seventy-three thousand, four hundred dollars ($2,173,400) from the general fund and four million, five hundred seven thousand dollars ($4,557,000) in other fund expenditure authority to the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications for the purpose of replacing the emergency alert system.

Section 2. The Commissioner of the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications shall approve vouchers and the state auditor shall draw warrants to pay expenditures authorized by this Act.

Section 3. Any amounts appropriated in this Act not lawfully expended or obligated by July 1, 2027, shall revert in accordance with the procedures prescribed in chapter 4-8.

Section 4. Whereas, this Act is necessary for the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Act shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Finally, you have a draft copy of the audit for SDPB for approval at our board meeting. After the difficulties we experienced last year, it is wonderful to be ahead of deadlines this year.