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ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6115**

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CHAIRMAN

June 21, 2005

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BUD ALBRIGHT, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-218, The Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member Obey:

We, the undersigned Members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, support restoring full funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

Public television and radio broadcasters provide vital local services and quality programming on which millions of Americans rely. Public broadcasting offers unique noncommercial educational children's programming and local community outreach designed to improve early reading skills in young children and prepare teachers for the classroom. Through these efforts, public broadcasting has had a tremendous, positive impact on American society by improving our Nation's literacy and expanding efforts toward lifelong learning.

On June 16, 2005, the Committee on Appropriations voted to approve drastic cuts in Federal funding for public broadcasting. The slashing of more than \$200 million from national programming, educational grants, and local station operations dishonors public broadcasting's dedication to our local communities. The overall cuts to CPB funding would have a devastating impact on local stations and the communities they serve. By zeroing out any funds for public television's Ready to Learn and Ready to Teach programs, the appropriations measure would harm our Nation's children and teachers. The bill also cuts funding to help local stations undergo the conversion to a digital broadcasting system and a much-needed upgrade to PBS's satellite system that distributes national programming to local stations.

We support restoring CPB's current funding levels, including Ready To Learn, Ready To Teach, interconnection and digital funding. We also support advance funding that enables public broadcasting critical lead-time to plan and produce programs, and leverage additional funding through non-Federal sources, stretching Federal dollars for the greatest impact.

Sincerely,

Paul Amodeo

Edward J. Markey

Allan R. Yon

Frank Pallone, Jr.

W. John

Jim Davis

Mike Caputo

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Mike Romo

Jed Strickland

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