

PHONE CALL guidance and scripts

when contacting Kansas Senators and Representative

to support continued public media funding

LINK TO CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ALL STATES

Phone numbers	Garden City	Hays	Dodge City	Washington, D.C
Jerry Moran	(620)-260-3025	(785) 628-6401		(202) 224-6521
Roger Marshall	(620) 765-7800			(202) 224-4774
Tracy Mann			(620) 682-7340	(202) 225-2715

Subject to reference: continued funding public broadcasting funding through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB)

Request to make: 1) oppose any proposal to rescind already appropriated funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; 2) support continued funding of CPB in the FY26 budget.

Current threats to CPB funding

- A White House request to Congress to rescind (take back) two years of *already appropriated* funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is planned and expected to be issued soon.
- All future funding for CPB is eliminated in the White House's Fiscal Year 2026 budget sent to Congress¹.
- CPB funding is a key factor in HPPR's ability to serve rural Western Kansas. While most of HPPR's funding comes from local private sources, HPPR receives an annual operating grant of about \$222,000 from CPB that is about 15% of its total budget. CPB also provides about \$66,000 of indirect support, including funding for essential shared infrastructure and services that HPPR relies on (e.g. emergency warning systems, the satellite network that connects its stations, website software and payment of music royalty fees). Without this CPB support HPPR would be very hard pressed to continue its current levels of service.

Suggested sample scripts

Note: These scripts make suggested points that can be mixed and matched. Of course, making other points from your own perspective will be very valuable in adding to the reasons why funding should be supported. Consider including the value you personally receive from HPPR as well as the value you see to your community from having HPPR's programming freely available.

A. This is ____ calling from _____. I'm calling Senator (Representative) _____ in regard to funding for public broadcasting through the Corporation for Public

¹ By law, CPB is forward-funded for two years. So, the elimination of CPB funding in the FY26 budget is for FY28. The proposed rescission of funds would be for FY26 and FY27 funds that were appropriated in prior year and are currently in the U.S. Treasury waiting to be released to CPB. This forward funding is a key part of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 that's intended to protect CPB from political interference.

Broadcasting. That funding is essential for having High Plains Public Radio's (and Smoky Hills Public TV's) service available in my community and across Western Kansas. I personally find the news, information, music and educational programming they provide valuable and important to have available free of charge, 24 hours a day to everyone in Western Kansas.

CPB provides direct funding to High Plains Public Radio (and Smoky Hills Public TV) that is vital to making this service possible. So, I'm requesting that Senator (Representative) ____ *oppose* any actions to rescind already appropriated funding of CPB and *support* continued funding in the FY26 budget. It's funding that really matters to us here in Western Kansas. Thank you for listening and thinking about this from the perspective of what matters to constituents like myself from communities all across Western Kansas.

- B. I'm ____ calling from _____ to let Senator (Representative) _____ know that funding for public broadcasting through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is very important to me and my community and asking that he *oppose* any actions to rescind already appropriated CPB funds and *support* continued funding in the FY26 budget.

I recognize that cutting spending is a priority but I see support of CPB as a very good and effective use of federal funds. First, it's not a large budget item, just \$1.60 per American and that goes to support over 1,500 local public radio and TV stations across the country, including High Plains Public Radio (and Smoky Hills Public TV) here in Western Kansas. And for every dollar that goes to HPPR, Western Kansans provide another \$6 in local support. That's a real testimony to just how valuable the service is to us. At the same time, the support received from CPB is vital to High Plains Public Radio's ability to serve all of Western Kansas, given the higher operating costs of serving such a rural area and the smaller population basis we have to support the service. So I urge you to consider this issue from our *local* perspective and be sure that already appropriated funding for CPB is not rescinded and that funding continues in the FY26 budget.

- C. Hello, I'm ____ calling from _____ to let Senator (Representative) _____ know my views about federal funding of public broadcasting through the Corporations for Public Broadcasting. It's very unfortunate that CPB funding has gotten caught up in *national* politics and become a political target when it's really a local matter. That's because nearly all of CPB's funding actually goes to support local stations and their local service to communities, and that includes High Plains Public Radio here in Western Kansas. And HPPR isn't run by NPR or any other national organization. It's operated independently by a Kansas non-profit organization with a board of directors from across western Kansas and it's supported mainly by Western Kansans like myself.

But the annual funding the CPB provides to HPPR is an essential part of its budget and especially important for HPPR's ability to cover the costs of reaching every western Kansas community, big or small, and serving every Western Kansan, regardless of their income. So I hope you'll keep our local interests in mind and be sure that already appropriated funds for CPB are not rescinded and that funding continues in the FY26 budget. Thank you.

Other information about HPPR to consider when communicating the value and importance of HPPR's service to you and Western Kansas.

- High Plains Public Radio provides a wide variety of quality **programming valued by listeners** that is **not otherwise available on the radio dial** across the High Plains, including:
 - Comprehensive, reliable, fact-based and objective regional, state, national and international news;
 - Ongoing reporting on significant issues of region wide concern such as groundwater management, energy production, immigration, community development and the ag economy;
 - A variety of timeless, meaningful and educational musical forms (classical, jazz, folk and others)
 - A range of regional arts, culture and history programming produced by area volunteers (e.g. the Radio Readers Book Club)
- Its broadcast programming ensures **easy and reliable access** across all parts of the region, including rural areas without high-speed internet access or reliable cell phone service.
- Its broadcast programming is **available without cost** to all residents by not requiring costly internet or cell phone service or charging subscription fees for quality programming.
- HPPR serves as a **community partner to scores of education, arts, culture and social service organizations** through promotion of their programs and events;
- HPPR remains **locally owned, operated and entirely committed to serving the region** at a time when the ownership of other media in the region has largely shifted to outside interests that have reduced local staffing and content.
- For 45 years HPPR has worked to fulfil its mission of "supporting and enriching the civic, educational, economic, community and cultural life of residents of the High Plains region". **CPB support has been and remains a key piece of HPPR's ability to realize this mission.**

If you have questions about what or how to communicate with your Congressional delegation, please contact Abby Killingsworth, HPPR Development Director (akillingsworth@hppr.org or 620-315-4353). She would also appreciate hearing back from you on any responses you receive.

Thank you for your attention and time in helping to meet this serious funding challenge and ensuring that HPPR and public media in general can continue to serve the country.