

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
Chairman, Corporation for Public Broadcasting
401 Ninth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-2129

Dear Mr. Tomlinson:

We write out of concern for the future of public broadcasting. In your zeal to impose a political point of view on a nonpolitical institution, you have lost sight of your core mission to strengthen and protect this critical public media platform that does more every day for the education of children in this country than any other media outlet. For the sake of preserving this national treasure, we urge you to resign.

As you know, CPB's charter requires you to encourage public broadcasters to strive toward balanced and objective reporting on issues of a controversial nature, but in doing so, you are prohibited from striving to impose a particular political viewpoint. Allowing political party priorities to infect the governance of CPB is debilitating to the work of public broadcasting and inconsistent with both the letter and the spirit of your charter. Unfortunately, this is exactly what has occurred.

* You have attempted to influence the hiring process to ensure the appointment of persons favored by the White House;

* You have hired lobbyists to try to block legislation that would have reduced the dominance of political appointees relative to appointees representing independent public television stations on the CPB board.

* You have validated your critics by nominating the former co-chair of the Republican National committee to the sensitive position of CPB President.

You have also reportedly urged public television station managers to make sure that their programming better reflect the "Republican mandate."

Mr. Kenneth Y. Tomlinson

Page Two

Public broadcasting does not belong to any political party – it belongs to the people of the United States who, according to recent polling, find it to be one of the “most valuable” institutions in America. Moreover, regarding your own attempts to prove “bias”, it is useful to note that more than 40 percent of the public found PBS news and public affairs programming to be “most trusted” compared to other media – higher than any other news network.

All this suggests that you are either out of touch with the institution you run or deliberately attempting to undermine its public legitimacy. In either event, you are the wrong person to be chairman of the most trusted media network in the United States. Accordingly, we urge you to step aside in order to allow a person committed to the mission of CPB to rebuild what you have torn down.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey

Nita Lowery

Cardyn B. Maloney

Jewell Radler

Steven Rothman

Jim Oberstar

Tom Lantos

Cheryl L. Quish

Mike DeLoach

Ed Pastor

Janet Harv

Jane Evans

Bob Saul

Howard L. Berman

Ed Brus

Monty Mark

Robert Menendez

Richard E. Neal

Lynn Woolsey

Colin P. Brown

Pat Ditz

Diane E. Watson

Anna Shoo

John F. Tierney

John Smith

Mike Thompson

Mark A. Leger

Pete Stark

...

Michael K. Mitchell

Frank Pallone Jr.

J. F. Adams

Ken A. Warner

Jim M. Bennett

Ellen Trauscher

Betty McCollum

Jan Schak

Stephanie K. Hines

John W. Oliver

Von Udass

Rail M. Fitzhugh

Julia Cress

Grace D. Napolitano

Lois Capps

~~Gregory W. Meeks~~

Michael Mtenda

Jim Hahn

Barbara Lee

Neil Abernethy

Hilda L. Solis

Francisco

Linda J. Sanchez
