

Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System
FY 2027 BUDGET HEARING PRESENTATION

*Submitted by: Tanya-Marie Singh, Chief Executive Officer
August 18, 2026*

GOOD DAY SENATOR NOVELLE FRANCIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS. I AM TANYA-MARIE SINGH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM. I AM HERE TODAY TO RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM'S 2027 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,931,902.

TODAY IN THE WELL, I HAVE WITH ME, NEDRA THOMAS, THE SYSTEM'S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, MARIE WHITE, SENIOR FINANCIAL OFFICER, KIA-T'NIQUE THOMAS, DISASTER RECOVERY SPECIALIST, AND EUNELL MADURO OUR INTERIM DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING. MY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT MARISOL GARCIA AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT ISABELLE TEARE ARE IN THE GALLERY; THEY ARE BOTH THE SYSTEM'S EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR AS NOMINATED BY THE STATION'S STAFF.

THIS HAS BEEN A TOUGH YEAR FOR PUBLIC MEDIA ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND FOR US HERE AT WTJX-TV AND WTJX-FM, YOUR PBS AND NPR STATIONS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS. THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING HAS BEEN DEFUNDED AND IS NOW DEFUNCT, LEAVING WTJX WITH A LOSS OF 1.3 MILLION DOLLARS. THE UNION AND THE STATION SUSPENDED BARGAINING UNTIL AFTER THIS BUDGET HEARING AS WE ARE CURRENTLY UNABLE TO OFFER ANY INCREASES AT THIS TIME. IN FACT, WE MAY BE LOOKING AT A FIRST ROUND OF LAYOFFS IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING. AND WHILE WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SAVE MONEY THROUGH ATTRITION, KEY POSITIONS MUST BE FILLED, SPECIFICALLY IN THE LEADERSHIP AREAS OF ENGINEERING

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AND FUNDRAISING. ADDITIONALLY, THE BOARD HAS APPROVED MY SUCCESSION PLAN WHICH INVOLVES THE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OF TWO YOUNG WOMEN CURRENTLY IN THE ORGANIZATION TO BECOME THE SYSTEM'S NEXT CEO AND COO AS I DO PLAN TO RETIRE FROM FULL-TIME SERVICE AT THE SYSTEM WHEN MY CONTRACT EXPIRES IN JANUARY 2030. WE HAVE PAID OUR PBS DUES FOR FY 2027, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT HAVE THE FUNDING TO PAY THE FY 2028 DUES – THAT PAYMENT IS DUE IN THE SUMMER OF 2027. SOME ARE ANTICIPATING A BLUE WAVE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SUBSEQUENT REINSTATEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS TO PUBLIC MEDIA, HOWEVER, I AM GROUNDED IN OUR CURRENT REAL-TIME FINANCIAL OUTLOOK.

IN ADDITION TO OUR FISCAL WOES OF PAYROLL AND DUES, THERE IS THE MATTER OF OUR RECOVERY AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES. AT OUR UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NEXT WEEK, THE SYSTEM'S ATTORNEY AND I WILL BE ASKING THE BOARD TO REBUILD THE CURRENT HAYPIECE STRUCTURE ON ST. THOMAS UTILIZING THE SAME FOUNDATION, AS AFTER FOUR TRIES, WE HAVE NOT FOUND A CONTRACTOR WITHIN OUR BUDGET THAT HAS THE BONDING CAPACITY.

SPEAKING OF RECOVERY PROJECTS, WE ARE ACTIVELY IN THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF OUR MOUNTAIN TOP TRANSMITTER FACILITY. WE ANTICIPATE FINALIZING THIS PROJECT BY THE END OF THE YEAR. IN OUR REBUILDING PLAN, WE ARE INCLUDING A SMALL RADIO STUDIO SO THAT WE CAN GO LIVE FROM ST. THOMAS, ESPECIALLY DURING AN EMERGENCY. THIS FEMA PROJECT PROVIDES FOR REPAIRING THE MAIN BUILDING, ADDRESSING ITS ROOF, DEMO AND REBUILDING THE ENGINEERING AND STORAGE OFFICE, AND

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REPLACING THE PERIMETER FENCE WITH HURRICANE RATED FENCING. WE HAVE ALSO MADE PROGRESS WITH OUR ARCHIVES. WE HAVE SENT AWAY 6,893 TAPES TO OUR VENDOR, PRESERVE SOUTH, IN APRIL, AND THEY HAVE DIGITIZED 2,600 TAPES THUS FAR. THANKS TO OUR SUMMER INTERNS, WE HAVE DOWNLOADED 2,160 DIGITAL PROGRAMS ON AN EXISTING SERVER THAT WE REPURPOSED. WE HAVE ASKED FEMA PERMISSION TO REVISE THE SCOPE OF THIS PROJECT IN ORDER TO PURCHASE TWO SERVERS AND WE ARE WORKING ON A STRATEGY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS TO OUR ARCHIVES.

WE HAVE TWO NON-FEMA RELATED CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT ARE BEING ACTIVELY WORKED ON: THE ENERGY OFFICE IS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF INSTALLING A SOLAR MICRO-GRID AT OUR MOUNTAIN TOP TRANSMITTER FACILITY ON ST. THOMAS THROUGH A GRANT THAT THEY RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. ON ST. CROIX, WE ARE ACTIVELY IN CONSTRUCTION OF OUR PROJECT THAT CONVERTS AN OPEN SPACE TO ROOMS AND A KITCHEN STUDIO TO PRESERVE OUR CULINARY CULTURE. THE ROOMS WILL SERVE AS A SPACE TO HUNKER DOWN DURING AN EMERGENCY WHILE DELIVERING SERVICE AS WELL AS CUTTING DOWN ON HOTEL EXPENSES FOR VISITING STAFF. THIS PROJECT IS ALSO FUNDED THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE YOUNG TALENTED STAFF AT PUBLIC WORKS FOR MANAGING THE FEMA RECOVERY PROJECT ON ST. THOMAS AND THE INTERIOR PROJECT ON ST. CROIX. JAKOBI PEETS IS MY POINT PERSON FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT AT PUBLIC WORKS AND SUCH A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH.

SENATORS, I NEVER TIRE OF REPORTING THAT ONCE AGAIN, OUR

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AUDIT IS UNMODIFIED AND THERE WERE ZERO AUDIT FINDINGS.

PROGRAMMING CONTINUES TO BE A STRONGPOINT FOR THE SYSTEM. THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY ONLY WORKS IF EVERY GENERATION IS PREPARED TO CARRY IT FORWARD AND THAT IS WHY OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING FROM PBS KIDS – ON TELEVISION AND ON DIGITAL MEDIA – IS IMPORTANT. PARENTS ARE CONCERNED BY WHAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE EXPERIENCING AND CONSUMING. WITH 27% OF THE TERRITORY'S CHILDREN NOT IN FORMAL PRE-SCHOOL, WE ARE THE FIRST PLACE THEY LEARN THEIR LETTERS, THE FIRST PLACE THEY LEARN TO COUNT, AND MAYBE THE FIRST PLACE THEY LEARN TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH WHEN THEY ARE UPSET AS OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING COVERS A WIDE SPECTRUM OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES. WE ADDED TWO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS TO OUR EXISTING STELLAR LINEUP: **WEATHER HUNTERS** CREATED AND PRODUCED BY AMERICA'S BELOVED WEATHERCASTER AL ROKER FOR CHILDREN AGES FIVE THROUGH EIGHT. THE SHOW BLENDS ADVENTURE, COMEDY, AND SCIENCE TO SPARK CURIOSITY ABOUT WEATHER, CLIMATE, AND THE WORLD AROUND US. WE ALSO PREMIERED **PHOEBE AND JAY** DESIGNED TO SUPPORT EARLY LITERACY SKILLS FOR PRESCHOOLERS BY HIGHLIGHTING THE MANY KINDS OF TEXTS CHILDREN ENCOUNTER IN THEIR DAILY LIVES – FROM SIGNS TO POSTERS TO LABELS AND MOVIE TICKETS – HELPING THEM UNDERSTAND, NAVIGATE, AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD AROUND THEM.

I ALSO BELIEVE THAT INFORMED CITIZENS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF A FREE SOCIETY AND OUR VIEWERS RECEIVE THAT EVERY SINGLE DAY IN OUR LINEUP. I WILL HIGHLIGHT A FEW OF OUR TELEVISION PROGRAMS. AS AMERICA CELEBRATED ITS 250TH ANNIVERSARY, NOT ONLY DID WE

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AIR ***THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION***, THE SIX-PART, 12-HOUR DOCUMENTARY BY ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR KEN BURNS, WE TOLD STORIES OF AFRICAN AMERICANS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR THROUGH ***CONCORD'S SECRET HISTORY, AMERICAN MUSLIMS: A HISTORY REVEALED, DECLARATIONS: BLACK AMERICANS AND THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, THE MONTIERS: AN AMERICAN STORY, SALLY: A SOLO PLAY***, AND ***BECOMING AMERICAN: PHILADELPHIA'S STORY***. WE ALSO AIRED ***SAVE THE FARM, SAVE THE FUTURE*** WHERE COLORADO FARMERS AND RANCHERS WERE FOLLOWED AS THEY EXPLORE AGRIVOLTAICS, A PROMISING NEW APPROACH THAT COMBINES SOLAR POWER AND AGRICULTURE ON THE SAME LAND AS DROUGHT, RISING COSTS, DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES, AND LABOR CHALLENGES ARE PUSHING FARMERS TO THEIR LIMITS; ***THE RIDE AHEAD*** TELLS THE STORY OF A PHYSICALLY DISABLED 21-YEAR-OLD WHO FACES THE CHALLENGES OF BEING AN ADULT WITH A DISABILITY – WANTING TO MOVE OUT, START A CAREER, AND FIND LOVE; WE BROADCASTED ***IGUALADA: REFUSING TO KNOW YOUR PLACE*** IN COLOMBIA'S MOST CONSEQUENTIAL ELECTION, BLACK ACTIVIST FRANCIA MARQUEZ ROSE FROM RURAL ORGANIZER TO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, CHALLENGING CENTURIES OF RACIAL AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION; ***ROADTRIP NATION: THRIVING – BLACK MEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION*** WHICH FOLLOWS THE JOURNEYS OF THREE YOUNG BLACK MEN AS THEY EXPLORE WHAT'S POSSIBLE FOR THEIR FUTURES AND HEAR FROM INSPIRING BLACK MALE LEADERS HOW THEY NAVIGATED THEIR OWN HIGHER ED PATHS. WE PREMIERED MY FAVORITE PROGRAM THIS SEASON, ***ENSLAVED: THE LOST HISTORY OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE***. THIS SIX-PART EPIC SEARCH FOR TRUTH LED BY ACTOR SAMUEL L. JACKSON BRINGS LONG BURIED STORIES OF THE MIDDLE PASSAGE TO LIGHT THROUGH A BLEND OF HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION, UNDERWATER EXPLORATION, AND

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CULTURAL REFLECTION. AND IN THE NEW SEASON OF **OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS**, COACHES HELP FAMILIES LIVING PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK TACKLE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES TO BUILD A STRONGER FUTURE.

WTJX CONTINUED TO PROVIDE QUALITY LOCAL PROGRAMS. I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO THANK THIS BODY FOR PROVIDING \$100,000 FROM THE TOURISM REVOLVING FUND WHICH ALLOWED US TO COVER THE **ST. CROIX FESTIVAL PARADES, THE ST. THOMAS CARNIVAL PARADES, AND THE ST. JOHN CELEBRATION PARADE**. IT IS MY HOPE THAT YOU WILL PASS THAT FUNDING AGAIN. WE PROVIDED LIVE COVERAGE AND COMMENTARY OF GOVERNOR BRYAN'S FINAL **STATE OF THE TERRITORY ADDRESS**. DURING VIRGIN ISLANDS HISTORY MONTH IN MARCH, WE PREMIERED A **MADRAS HEADWRAP TYING DEMONSTRATION WITH GIANA "REGAL" CHRISTOPHER FEATURING STUDENTS FROM THE RICARDO RICHARDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**. REGAL SHARES THE MEANINGS BEHIND TRADITIONAL HEADTIE "POINTS," EXPLAINS THE HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS MADRAS, AND GUIDES STUDENTS THROUGH CREATING THEIR OWN WRAPS. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CONSORTIUM**, WTJX PRESENTED THREE **DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY DEBATES** FOR DELEGATE TO CONGRESS, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, AND GOVERNOR. WE ALSO PROVIDED **LIVE PRIMARY ELECTION NIGHT COVERAGE** FROM THE ST. CROIX BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE. AND, WE ADDED THE FOURTH INSTALLMENT IN OUR GOVERNORS SERIES AS WE FEATURED THE SIXTH ELECTED GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, **CHARLES WESLEY TURNBULL**. THE FILM TRACES GOVERNOR TURNBULL'S JOURNEY FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN SAVAN TO TEACHER, PRINCIPAL, COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, AND ULTIMATELY, GOVERNOR. WE COVERED A FEW STREAM-ONLY PROGRAMS: **OMB'S SPRING REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE**, THE

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1878 FIREBURN COMMEMORATION REENACTMENT PRESENTED BY UNITED CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION, AND **PUBLIC WORKS' VIRTUAL TOWNHALL MEETING** FROM OUR STUDIOS ON ST. CROIX. WE ALSO CROSS-STREAMED AN EPISODE OF THE PBS PROGRAM, **AMERICAN STORIES: A READING ROADTRIP** WHICH FEATURED INTERVIEWS WITH VIRGIN ISLANDS AUTHORS DR. MARILYN KRIGGER, CADWELL TURNBULL, TIPHANIE YANIQUE, AND ANGELA GOLDEN BRYAN.

BUT OUR MOST POPULAR STREAM CHALLENGED SOCIAL MEDIA NORMS WHICH INDICATE THAT ONLINE USERS ARE PRIMARILY ATTRACTED TO SHORT VIDEOS. WE TRUSTED OUR AUDIENCE BY BELIEVING THAT PEOPLE ACROSS ADULT AGE GROUPS ARE FOCUSED ENOUGH TO STICK WITH A STORY IF YOU TELL IT WELL. WITH THE COURTROOM FILLED WITH REPORTERS FROM THREE OTHER MAJOR PUBLICATIONS, WE SAW IT FIT TO DIFFERENTIATE OUR COVERAGE OF COURTROOM PROCEDURES OF RECENT PUBLIC OFFICIALS BY PROVIDING COLOR, NUANCE, OBSERVATION, AND PRESENCE WITH VERBAL AND ACCURATE STORYTELLING. WITH THAT IN MIND, WE CREATED **TRIAL WATCH**, HOSTED BY OUR STAFFER, ISABELLE TEARE. THUS FAR WE HAVE COVERED THE CORRUPTION TRIALS OF FORMER SPORTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER CALVERT WHITE AND BUSINESSMAN BENJAMIN HENDRICKS, AS WELL AS FORMER POLICE COMMISSIONER RAY MARTINEZ AND FORMER OMB DIRECTOR JENIFER O'NEAL, THE SEXUAL BATTERY OF A MINOR TRIAL OF FORMER SENATOR STEVEN PAYNE, AND THE RESTRAINING ORDER FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BENCH TRIAL OF FORMER SENATOR AND DELEGATE TO CONGRESS CANDIDATE JANELLE SARAUW. WITH TRIAL WATCH CLOCKING IN AT ABOUT AN AVERAGE OF 50 MINUTES PER EPISODE, WE FOUND THAT OUR ONLINE AUDIENCE WANTED MORE, NOT LESS INFORMATION. WE HOPE TO REVISIT THE MARTINEZ/O'NEAL TRIAL AS WE HAVE WRITTEN

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TO DISTRICT JUDGE MARK KEARNEY REQUESTING THE AUDIO EVIDENCE PLAYED IN THE COURTROOM SO THAT VIRGIN ISLANDERS CAN HEAR FOR THEMSELVES THE RECORDINGS THAT THE JURY HEARD DURING THE TRIAL. JUDGE KEARNEY HAS DOCKETED OUR REQUEST AND WE HOPE TO RECEIVE A REPLY SOON. WE HAVE AT LEAST TWO MORE TRIAL WATCH PROGRAMS BY THE END OF THE YEAR: THE FRAUD CASE AGAINST DAVIDSON AND SASHA CHARLEMAGNE IN NOVEMBER AND THE FEDERAL CASE IN DECEMBER AGAINST PASTOR LAWRENCE BENJAMIN WHO IS ACCUSED OF UNLAWFUL SEXUAL CONTACT WITH A MINOR.

THIS PAST DECEMBER, WTJX AND STANLEY AND THE TEN SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS CELEBRATED OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRUCIAN CHRISTMAS FOREDAY SERENADE WITH THREE EARLY MORNING FETES. WE EXPANDED OUR STOPS INTO WHIM AND BONNE ESPERANCE – TWO EXCELLENT, DELICIOUS STOPS.

IN YET ANOTHER PARTNERSHIP TO MAKE OUR PROGRAMMING MORE ACCESSIBLE, PBS HAS PARTNERED WITH LG SMART TVS, MAKING THE PBS APP AVAILABLE ON THE LG BRAND TV 2022 MODELS OR HIGHER. THE PBS APP ALLOWS YOU TO LOCALIZE TO WTJX WITHIN THE TERRITORY. LG JOINS PBS'S LINEUP OF APPS ON ROKU, SAMSUNG, VIZIO, COMCAST, ANDROID/GOOGLE TV, AMAZON FIRE TV, APPLE MOBILE AND TABLET, ANDROID MOBILE AND TABLET, AND AMAZON FIRE TABLETS. AND I WANT TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT THEY CAN WATCH WTJX ON THEIR AMAZON PRIME VIDEO ACCOUNTS WITHIN THE TERRITORY. WE ARE STILL AVAILABLE WITH AN ANTENNA, WE'RE AVAILABLE ON DISH, ON CABLE TV, BY USING THE FREE WTJX APP ON YOUR SMART PHONE OR TABLET, AND ON OUR WEBSITE: WTJX.ORG.

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OUR GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY IS THE MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION OF A UNIQUE GOVERNMENT ASSET. WTJX-TV AND WTJX-FM ARE THE ONLY FULL POWERED TELEVISION AND RADIO STATION OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM IS THE STEWARD OF THESE ASSETS AND WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS EDITORIAL CONTENT. IN ADDITION TO MAINTAINING THESE ASSETS, WE ARE EMBARKING ON TWO IMPORTANT ACQUISITIONS: ON THE TELEVISION SIDE, WE APPLIED FOR NINE TELEVISION TRANSLATORS IN HOPES OF GETTING THE TWO WE NEED, ONE FOR ST. THOMAS AND ONE FOR ST. CROIX THAT WILL ENABLE US TO MOVE TOWARD THE NEW FCC STANDARD OF ATSC 3.0. WE WERE ABLE TO GET THE TWO WE REALLY WANTED. ON THE RADIO SIDE, WE HAVE POTENTIALLY EXCITING NEWS FOR CRUCIANS, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY, THE FCC IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR NONCOMMERCIAL, EDUCATIONAL FM TRANSLATORS. OUR CONSULTANTS ARE DOING THE ENGINEERING NOW, TO SEE WHAT FREQUENCY CAN BEST DELIVER OUR SIGNAL ON ST. CROIX SO THAT WE ARE PREPARED WHEN THE APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT OUR SIGNAL IS POOR ON ST. CROIX. THE TV TRANSLATOR AND FM TRANSLATOR OR TRANSLATORS ON ST. CROIX WILL REQUIRE US TO LEASE TOWER SPACE ON THE BIG ISLAND.

AS I BRING MY PRESENTATION TO A CLOSE, I WANT TO HARKEN BACK TO THE REASON FOR THE FEDERAL FUNDING CUT. IN 1965 PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON CREATED THE CARNEGIE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION WHICH LED TO THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING ACT OF 1967. WHEN CONGRESS DEBATED THE ACT THEY WERE APPREHENSIVE THAT PUBLIC MEDIA WOULD BE A TOOL MANIPULATED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. HOWEVER, THE LEGISLATION PASSED AND IN 1970 PBS WAS LAUNCHED. IN 1972, PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON

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VETOED TWO-YEAR FUNDING TO THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING BECAUSE HE FELT THAT PUBLIC TELEVISION BEGAN AIRING NEWS COVERAGE THAT HE DID NOT CARE FOR. HOWEVER, CONGRESS OPPOSED ZEROING OUT FUNDING. A YEAR LATER, IN 1973, WHILE THE MAJOR NETWORKS – ABC, NBC, CBS – AIRED THE WATERGATE HEARINGS DURING THE DAY, ROTATING BETWEEN THE THREE NETWORKS, PBS NOT ONLY AIRED THE HEARINGS IN THE DAYTIME, PBS REBROADCASTED THEM, UNEDITED, IN THE NIGHT, DURING PRIMETIME, ALLOWING MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH RESULTED IN AUDIENCE GROWTH, DONATIONS, JOURNALISTIC LEGITIMACY AND THE CREATION OF THE ROBERT MACNEIL REPORT WHICH IS NOW THE PBS NEWSHOUR. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GERALD FORD, EVERY REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT SINCE NIXON OPPOSED FUNDING PUBLIC MEDIA BUT ONLY ONE WAS SUCCESSFUL, OUR CURRENT PRESIDENT, DONALD TRUMP, AND FOR THE VERY REASON NIXON DISLIKED THE SERVICE. TO QUOTE THE LATE GREAT BOB MARLEY, THE TRUTH IS AN OFFENSE, BUT NOT A SIN. IN THE WORLD OF POLITICS, OFFENDING IS A CARDINAL SIN AND THE TRUTH IS A LIABILITY. IN AN ERA WHEN TRUST ITSELF IS THE SCARCEST COMMODITY IN MEDIA, I SUBMIT TO YOU THAT PBS, NPR, AND WTJX ARE WORTHY OF YOUR SUPPORT TO CONTINUE TO BRING TRUTH, INFORMATION, EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND ENTERTAINMENT TO BROADEN AND FEED THE MINDS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

SENATORS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. MY TEAM AND I LOOK FORWARD TO ADDRESSING YOUR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS.