



CPB Reauthorization Resolution of APTS Action, Inc.

The APTS Action Board of Directors adopts the following reform recommendations to be included in CPB reauthorization legislation. This reform package will be vetted with the member stations and, after input from these stations, will be finalized and presented to the Congress by APTS Action.

These reforms are designed to ensure that CPB is as well governed and managed as are the public television stations – the recipients of federal funding through CPB. These reforms are intended to de-politicize the governance of CPB, elevate the professionalism of the CPB board, and guarantee editorial integrity of public broadcasting.

The specific reforms are as follows.

Expansion and Enhancement of the Board

In order to enhance the professionalism of the board and achieve greater political balance, the composition of the CPB board will be altered in three respects. First, the board number will be increased to 13 seats. Second, five of these 13 seats will be voting *ex officio* seats designated for persons with relevant expertise that will hold the seats by virtue of their leadership of the following organizations: the librarian of the Library of Congress, the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, the chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the director of the National Science Foundation. Third, of the remaining eight seats to be appointed by the President, no more than four of these eight seats may be members of the same political party; and, at least two of these eight seats will be representatives from public television stations and at least two will be representatives of public radio stations. These representatives will be nominated by the President after direct consultation with the stations and their national membership and affinity organizations.

Open CPB Board Meetings

Although current law requires open CPB board meetings, the statutory exceptions to the law apparently have been interpreted by CPB to allow closed meetings in situations not requiring confidentiality in the normal sense of the word. The law should specify that all substantive issues being considered by the CPB board should be in open session. CPB requires that stations receiving CPB funding must have open meetings; therefore, it is logical that a similar open meeting requirement apply to CPB itself.

Prohibition on Hiring Outside Political Consultants

The reform package will include a directive that the CPB board and management are explicitly prohibited from using CPB funds to hire outside political lobbyists or consultants.

Bi-Partisan Leadership

The CPB statute will be amended to include a requirement that the chair and vice-chair of the board may not both be from the same political party. This will ensure that the bi-partisan nature of the board be reflected in the board leadership.

Local Station Input on Funding Policies and Distribution

Although some station consultation requirements currently exist, these requirements should be more specific and should ensure that consultation occurs across a broader range of CPB activities. The requirements should include directives that CPB conduct consultations with stations as it formulates CSG policy, national programming policy, and distribution of interconnection funding, digital funding, and any discretionary funding. Further, this consultation process should include representatives designated by each of the public stations' national organizations and affinity groups, rather than leaving the selection of the consultation panel members solely to the discretion of CPB. These consultation reforms will ensure meaningful input from the local public broadcasting stations.

The Board of Directors of APTS Action supports a strong CPB Code of Ethics and calls upon the CPB board to enforce strict adherence to that code.

The Board of Directors of APTS Action urges these reforms be approved by the station membership and be forwarded in a timely manner to the U.S. Congress.

*Adopted by the APTS Action, Inc. Board of Directors
October 29, 2005*