



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Proposed Elimination of Federal Funding for Public Broadcasting Would Be Devastating

*Western Reserve PBS urges viewers to
contact congressional representatives immediately*

Kent, Ohio — Feb. 14, 2011 — Western Reserve PBS expressed deep concern today as the House Appropriations Committee prepares to vote over the next few days on a proposal to completely eliminate federal funding for public broadcasting.

“If the proposed legislation passes, public broadcasting as our viewers know it will cease to exist,” said Trina Cutter, president and CEO of Western Reserve PBS. “It is vital that our viewers take action immediately and contact their members of Congress.”

Viewers can contact their representatives through the website www.170millionamericans.org. The site makes it easy and fast for visitors to connect with representatives and let their opinion be known. Viewers who do not have access to the Internet can call Western Reserve PBS at 1-800-554-4549 and the staff will help callers find contact information.

“With a federal funding investment of just \$1.35 per person per year, I believe public broadcasting provides a huge value,” said Cutter. “But it’s our viewers’ opinions that matter. They need to communicate with their representatives now.”

Every month, more than 170 million Americans use public media – through public television stations, public radio stations, hundreds of online services, education services and in-person events and activities. 170 Million Americans for Public Broadcasting is a partnership of more than 250 public television and radio stations throughout the country, national organizations, producers and the millions of Americans served every day by public media.

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About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

Western Reserve PBS, a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.4 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels, Fusion (WNEO.2/WEAO.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO.3/WEAO.3) and V-me (WNEO.4/WEAO.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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