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Elena Sassower, Director

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TO: [Craig Aaron](#), President, Co-CEO/Free Press
[Tim Graham](#), Executive Editor of Newsbusters.org/Media Research Center
[Howard Husock](#), Senior Fellow/American Enterprise Institute
[James Erwin](#), Executive Director/Digital Liberty
& Director of Investigations/Americans for Tax Reform

RE: Your Testimony at the May 8, 2024 Hearing on NPR Bias –
& the DOGE Subcommittee’s March 26, 2025 Hearing “Anti-American Airwaves:
Holding the Heads of NPR and PBS Accountable”

I am director and co-founder of the national, non-partisan, non-profit citizens’ organization, [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#), based in New York – and for the past six weeks, since I sent a [February 18th letter](#) to House DOGE Subcommittee Chair Marjorie Taylor Greene and Federal Communications Commission Chair Brendan Carr, entitled “Defunding NPR, PBS – & Firing the CPB’s Inspector General, for starter”, have been a behind-the-scenes participant in what has been unfolding.

The February 18th letter chronicles “*knowingly* false, corruption-abetting, election-rigging journalism” by NPR and PBS’ local New York affiliates – the subject of fully-documented complaints to the NPR and PBS national entities, ignored, without response, by their public editors, presidents, boards of directors, and counsel and which the Corporation for Public Broadcasting’s Inspector General thereafter also ignored, without response. The letter is explosive for that reason, but also because it identifies that NPR’s and PBS’ “*knowingly* false, corruption-abetting, election-rigging” New York “local journalism” is NOT unique to them, but is how the gamut of New York’s “local journalism” operates, from The New York Times on down. This includes – and the letter highlights – the 2018 election and 2022 re-election of Letitia James as New York attorney general and the 2021 election of Alvin Bragg as Manhattan district attorney, each pivotally responsible for the corruption and unconstitutionality of New York state governance involving the massive, policy-filled, larcenous state budget and the “false instrument” pay raises for public officers it embeds, concealed, *in toto*, by New York’s press so as to enable these two corrupt posturers to invidiously and selectively prosecute Mr. Trump on rhetoric that “no one is above the law”.

Prior to the [March 26th DOGE Subcommittee hearing “Anti-American Airwaves: Holding the Heads of NPR and PBS Accountable”](#), I furnished the February 18th letter to a large swath of press, including to the very journalists who would thereafter report on the hearing and conceal it, totally.

CJA's website, www.judgewidth.org, posts everything, accessible from an evidentiary webpage: <https://www.judgewidth.org/web-pages/press-suppression/public-media/2025-defunding-npr-pbs-and-firing-cpb-ig.htm>. It posts the span of my e-mails transmitting the February 18th letter to Subcommittee Chair Greene, c/o the majority office of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to FCC Chair Carr, to DOGE Subcommittee Ranking Member Melanie Stansbury, to Rank-and-File Member Brandon Gill, and to NPR and PBS. The last is my [March 31st e-mail to Congressman Gill](#) entitled "Questions about & for the Record of the March 26th DOGE Subcommittee Hearing..." – preceded by my [March 28th e-mail](#) to Subcommittee Ranking Member Stansbury, inquiring about her absence from the March 26th hearing.

As for my outreach to the press about the February 18th letter and what has been going on, the [evidentiary webpage](#) I created is also accessible from that webpage – and from it you can draw your own conclusions about press performance, including by NPR and The New York Times. Additionally noteworthy is the sequence of my e-mails to the journalism faculty of Hillsdale College and its journalist alum Casey Harper and then to its Senior Journalism Fellow Mollie Hemingway, my e-mail to Columbia Journalism Review that included the dean of the J-School and Margaret Sullivan, the executive director of its Craig Newmark Center for Journalism Ethics, my sequence of e-mails to The Free Press and, specifically, Uri Berliner and Bari Weiss, and the e-mails I sent to so many e-mail addresses at The Washington Post.

Can our democracy endure when this is how Congress and the press operate? And where are the scholars whose scholarship is based on evidence that is not cherry-picked to conform to their partisan and ideological agendas?

All four of you gave written and oral testimony at last year's May 8, 2024 hearing "[Examining Accusations of Ideological Bias at NPR, a Taxpayer Funded News Entity](#)", held by the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Don't you agree that the May 8, 2024 hearing is relevant to the March 26th hearing, where it was barely mentioned.

And would you not agree that my February 18th letter, by its evidence-substantiated reframing of the bias issue to "*knowingly* false" journalism by New York's NPR and PBS local stations – identical to that of other New York press – blows to smithereens Mr. Aaron's testimony about NPR's supposed "independent, fact-checked journalism", whose "mandate is to find and report its own stories...to tell the stories that won't be told by commercial media" "the stories that are going uncovered elsewhere" (at 1 hr/30 mins).

As for Mr. Housock's testimony to "let public radio stations across the country keep more of their taxpayer dollars for their own newsgathering rather than having to send them to NPR in Washington", which Mr. Aaron and Mr. Erwin both endorsed, what actual empirical evidence do you have that NPR local stations are of a better, more neutral ilk – seemingly the sole proposition unifying Republican and Democratic congressmembers at the hearing and articulated by seven Republican senators in their [April 29, 2024 letter to NPR President Maher](#), stating:

“NPR’s local affiliates continue to serve their communities with dedication and professionalism... It is disappointing to see their dedication to straightforward programming be besmirched by affiliation.”

Suffice to say that at the hearing (at 1 hr/45 mins), Mr. Housock cited to WNYC as among the NPR stations “specializing in local news” and as “one of the largest news providers in New York City” – advocating for more taxpayer money to it.

According to [Wikipedia](#), “WNYC reaches more than one million listeners each week and has the largest public radio audience in the United States”, also reaching “listeners from across the country and around the globe” – with programming that includes “*The [Brian Lehrer Show](#)...a two-hour weekday talk show covering local and national current events and social issues hosted by Brian Lehrer*”. Yet the starting point of my February 18th letter is the [May 8, 2023 complaint](#) I filed with NPR’s public editor – a complaint expressly against WNYC and Mr. Lehrer for their “*knowingly* false, corruption-abetting, election-rigging journalism”, as proven by evidence that is *prima facie*, open-and-shut.

As for Mr. Aaron’s passing mention, at the hearing (at 1 hr/7 mins), to “public editors” as first among the supposed “plenty of avenues to register... complaint” about “the journalism they produce, the questions they ask, the stories they choose”, he furnished no evidence of the efficacy of any of the avenues, including as to journalism that is “*knowingly* false” – a phenomenon he did not acknowledge to exist and which no other witness framed as such. This, however, is how New York’s press routinely operates – and, again, my February 18th letter furnishes the proof, *prima facie*, open-and-shut.

The May 8, 2024 hearing closed with Subcommittee Chair Morgan Griffith stating:

“pursuant to Committee rules I remind members they have ten business days to submit additional questions for the record and I ask that witnesses submit their responses within ten business days upon receipt of those questions” (at 2 hrs/7 mins).

Did the Subcommittee furnish you with “additional questions” for your “responses” – and, if so, what were they? Earlier today, I sent [an e-mail to Congressman Griffith’s legislative director](#), inquiring about this and other aspects of the record.

Please advise as to the foregoing, as soon as possible. Nothing would please me more than to discuss it with you and answer your questions. I am available, no matter how early or late.

Thank you.

s/Elena Sassower