

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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February 3, 2025

Ms. Paula A. Kerger
President and Chief Executive Officer
Public Broadcasting Service
2100 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-3785

Dear Ms. Kerger:

The Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency (Subcommittee) is planning a hearing on federally funded radio and television, including its systemically biased content. The Subcommittee is concerned by Public Broadcasting Service's (PBS) blatantly ideological and partisan coverage and looks forward to your participation in our upcoming hearing. The Subcommittee seeks to better understand PBS's position on providing Americans with accurate information. Please provide the Subcommittee with your availability to testify at a hearing during the week of Monday, March 3rd or the week of Monday, March 24th.

Recently, PBS implied that Mr. Elon Musk made a fascist salute while addressing an inaugural celebration hours after President Donald Trump was sworn into office.¹ The characterization was clearly false. According to the Anti-Defamation League, a group that focuses on combating antisemitism:

It seems that @elonmusk made an awkward gesture in a moment of enthusiasm, not a Nazi salute, but again, we appreciate that people are on edge.

In this moment, all sides should give one another a bit of grace, perhaps even the benefit of the doubt, and take a breath...²

This sort of bias betrays the principles of objective reporting and undermines public trust. As an organization that receives federal funds through its member stations,³ PBS should provide reporting that serves the entire public, not just a narrow slice of like-minded individuals and ideological interest groups.

¹ PBS News (@NewsHour), X, (Jan. 20, 2025, 3:55 PM), *available at* <https://x.com/NewsHour/status/1881445540031857115?mx=2>.

² Anti-Defamation League (@ADL), X, (Jan. 20, 2025, 5:52 PM), *available at* <https://x.com/ADL/status/1881474892022919403>.

³ See *Frequently Asked Questions about Support*, PBS.

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This hearing is an opportunity for you to explain to Congress and the American people why federal funds should be used for public television—particularly the sort of content produced by PBS.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marjorie Taylor Greene". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marjorie Taylor Greene
Chairwoman

Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency

cc: The Honorable Melanie Stansbury, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency