

Statement of Representative Anna G. Eshoo
Before the Committee on Rules
Prohibiting Federal Funding of NPR (H.R. 1076)
H-313 (U.S. Capitol)
March 16, 2011

- Mr. Chairman, there is no question the public is better served by the programming NPR and its members produce.
- Today, nearly 34 million people listen to NPR member stations on a weekly basis and this audience continues to grow. Over the past 10 years, listenership for NPR stations has increased by 72 percent.
- Public radio is inherently local; each station is independently owned and operated and tailors its programming choices to serve the local community.
- Yet, the bill under discussion today takes none of these facts into consideration and would seriously undermine the important news and information that public radio provides to its listeners each and every day.

- H.R. 1076 would cut off all federal funding to NPR – preventing any grants to NPR, any support extended to NPR by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and any support to NPR from public radio stations across the country.
- In one sweeping move, it would end any federal support for NPR programming and place enormous financial burdens on public radio stations across the country. In the Bay Area, stations like KQED in San Francisco, the most-listened-to public radio station in the country, reaches more than 740,000 listeners each week and provides an important public service to the surrounding community.
- The facts speak for themselves. The American people strongly support public broadcasting, a concept this bill ignores. Recent public opinion polling demonstrates that almost 70 percent of all voters oppose terminating funding for public broadcasting and that support for public broadcasting is consistently strong across the political spectrum.

- On process, I'm disappointed that Members did not see the bill until yesterday – 48 hours before it is to come to the House floor. On its face, this violates the 72 hour rule that the Republican leadership adopted with such fanfare in January.
- This bill should have come through our Committee. As Ranking Member of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over these issues, I'm very disappointed that we've not been afforded a chance to hold hearings on this bill. This is a very important matter.
- NPR and its member stations simply do not deserve this treatment. I urge that this measure be deferred, that the Energy and Commerce Committee work its will on this bill, and that if Leadership still chooses to bring this legislation forward after the recess, that it has the benefit of the full and orderly legislative consideration.