



Patricia de Stacy Harrison
President and
Chief Executive Officer

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

Thank you for your letter of February 22, 2024, and for the opportunity to respond to your opinions and questions regarding the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's ("CPB") commitment to transparency.

CPB has a history of commitment to transparency. On May 1, 2006, the CPB Board adopted a resolution, which remains in effect today, to increase the transparency of the CPB Board's deliberations, including publishing audio files of all open meetings of the Board on the CPB website.¹ This exceeds the open meeting requirements of the Public Broadcasting Act under 47 U.S.C. Section 396 (g)(4) and (k)(4). In addition to providing live audio access to all public sessions of board meetings, CPB provides online access to board meeting agendas, meeting minutes, and board resolutions.

CPB uses SoundCloud, a streaming audio platform, to host its audio recordings. On January 30, 2024, a CPB technician was adjusting the SoundCloud settings and clicked the wrong setting. By doing so, he inadvertently suspended public access to some of the audio recordings of our board meetings. CPB was not aware that public access to those recordings had been interrupted until we received your letter on February 22. In response, we identified the recordings that had become inaccessible and readjusted the SoundCloud settings to restore public access to all online recordings by the close of business that same day. This was all long after your December 8, 2023 letter, and my December 22, 2023 response.

It is important to know that the meeting minutes of all public sessions of the CPB Board and its resolutions continued to be accessible by the public, which could read board meeting minutes as well as see a link to the audio recordings.

In conclusion, CPB never sought to prevent public access to the audio recordings of our board meetings. CPB is proud of our commitment to and practice of transparency, and we believe our handling of this matter confirms that commitment.

¹ CPB.

[https://cpb.org/sites/default/files/board/governance/Governance_Policies_\(Open_Meeting_Policy\).pdf](https://cpb.org/sites/default/files/board/governance/Governance_Policies_(Open_Meeting_Policy).pdf)

Below are my responses to your questions.

1. Why did CPB remove all audio files of the public portion of its board meetings since October 2022 from its Soundcloud and website?

CPB did not intentionally remove or otherwise compromise access to the audio recordings of CPB Board meetings. On January 30, 2024, a CPB technician clicked the wrong setting on the SoundCloud system that we use to host our audio recordings and inadvertently suspended access to some of the audio recordings of our board meetings.

2. Why did CPB make pre-October 2022 recordings private?

See above.

3. Who made the decision to remove or make inaccessible online the audio files from CPB's public board meetings?

There was no decision made to remove or make inaccessible online audio files of CPB's public board meetings.

4. Who else was consulted on and involved with the decision?

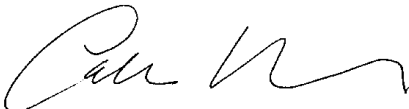
There was no consultation as there was no decision.

5. Will you commit to putting those recordings back online and publicly accessible for all previous and future meetings while you serve as President and CEO of CPB?

CPB restored all audio recordings on its website on February 22, 2024, the day we were informed that the recordings listed on its website were not accessible. The audio recordings are back online and publicly available.

I trust this information clarifies the situation causing the temporary inaccessibility of recordings of CPB Board meetings. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at PHarrison@cpb.org or Anne Brachman, CPB's Senior Vice President of External Affairs, at Abrachman@cpb.org.

Sincerely,



Patricia de Stacy Harrison