

**Rep. Henry A. Waxman**  
**Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Prepared Floor Statement on H.R. 1076, to prohibit Federal funding of National Public**  
**Radio and the use of Federal funds to acquire radio content**  
**March 17, 2011**

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1076.

This bill will cripple National Public Radio, public radio stations, and programming that is vital to over 27 million Americans.

And it will hit smaller stations in rural areas particularly hard. Public radio is indispensable where access to news is hard to get and broadband service is limited.

Like other members, I am concerned about the management and fundraising issues confronting NPR. I have met with the Chairman of the Board of NPR and told him in no uncertain terms that NPR has to get its house in order. And I am confident it will.

But this legislation is not about reforming NPR. It is about punishing NPR.

In my Committee this week, the Republican majority voted to deny science. They voted against an amendment that stated the scientific reality that climate change is occurring.

Now we are voting to deny the public access to one of our nation's most credible sources of news coverage.

Republicans promised to govern by the "cut-go" rule. But the impact of their legislation has instead followed the "cut-jobs" principle: the major bills brought to the floor reduce employment and opportunity for growth.

CBO has scored this bill. It does not save a penny.

This means that this legislation does not serve any fiscal purpose.

But it does serve an ugly ideological purpose.

Let us take a moment to understand what we are doing here. NPR mishandled the dismissal of one of its analysts – and the head of news at NPR was fired. NPR fundraisers made inappropriate statements in a contrived "sting" operation created by a conservative provocateur – and the chief fundraiser at NPR resigned, another senior executive was suspended, and the CEO was removed by the board.

But this is not enough for the authors of this legislation. They want to silence NPR.

We have held no hearings. We do not know all the facts. But that is apparently no impediment.

For decades, decisions on federal support for public broadcasting have been made two years ahead of the fiscal year in which the funding is allocated. Congress has supported these advance appropriations to insulate public broadcasting from politically motivated interference.

But this bill removes the buffer. NPR is now exposed to the full force of the political winds that blow through the House of Representatives.

It is this respect for the independence of public broadcasting that is being broken today with this terrible bill.