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STATE OF ALABAMA

November 17, 2025

Members of the Alabama Educational Television Commission
c/o Wayne Reid, Executive Director
Alabama Public Television
2112 11th Ave South, Suite 400
Birmingham, AL 35205

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing about the prospect of APT disaffiliating with PBS. While I am sympathetic to the concerns that may be prompting this proposal, such a sweeping, immediate action, especially if taken unilaterally by the executive branch, should be undertaken only after a thorough planning process and only with a thorough understanding of public opinion.

As Governor, I have worked hard to promote and defend Alabama values—from standing up for the sanctity of human life and our rights to religious liberty to standing against DEI, CRT, and boys playing girls' sports. For the sake of our people, it is imperative that APT's programming align with Alabama values.

At the same time, I have also strived to ensure that state government operates in an orderly fashion, with due regard for deliberation and collaboration among stakeholders.

For these reasons, I am respectfully asking the Commission to do two things before disaffiliating from PBS absent clear direction from our Legislature.

First, the Commission should thoroughly survey Alabama voters to ensure their voices are heard. Indeed, it is the Commission's statutory duty to "survey, study, and appraise" the need for a public television plan in Alabama. Such a survey should be performed by a reputable market research firm and be supplemented by actual viewership data. The survey should be specific to Alabama, gauging our citizens' views not just on the policy reasons for disaffiliation but also on likely next steps for APT should disaffiliation occur. The survey should also be conducted over a sustained period of time. If the Commission is going to disaffiliate from PBS, it should do so in response to trends in voter opinion, not just an isolated snapshot.

Second, the Commission should prepare a thorough disaffiliation plan for public review. The Commission was established by law "for the purpose of making the benefits of educational television available to, and promoting its use by, inhabitants of Alabama." Before the Commission votes to disaffiliate with PBS, it should therefore develop a written plan identifying the reasons for such a move and specific ways to ensure that the Commission will continue fulfilling its legal duty.

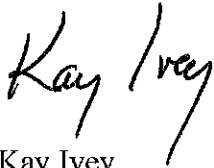
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This plan, moreover, should be available for public review for a considerable length of time before any vote is taken. The Commission could even take its plan to focus groups around the State to ensure full public consideration.

I am aware of, and even sympathetic to, the belief that maintaining a public television network is not a proper function of government. But whether the State should or should not operate public television is a question for our Legislature, and current law makes clear the Commission's function. Until the Legislature decides otherwise, it is our duty in the executive branch to faithfully implement that law as I have outlined above.

Thank you for all you do for APT and for the Great State of Alabama. I am grateful for your service and will be eager to track your progress as you navigate this very important issue on behalf of all Alabama citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Kay" is written with a large, looped 'K' and a small 'ay'. The last name "Ivey" is written with a large, looped 'I' and a small 'vey'.

Kay Ivey
Governor