

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1314

March 5, 2014

The Honorable Jeffery Shell  
Chairman  
Broadcasting Board of Governors  
330 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20237

**Re: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Balkans Service and Radio Free Iraq**

Dear Chairman Shell:

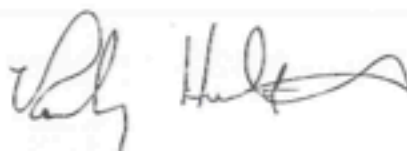
It has come to my attention that the Broadcasting Board of Governors is considering closure of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Balkans Service and Radio Free Iraq. I believe that the services represent a valuable United States asset formed to act as an independent voice of the United States in regions of the world in which the United States Government has strategic interests. Additionally, many countries covered by these two bureaus have press that has strict limitations put on them by their governments. Recent reports state that a media commission with close ties to the government of Iraq ordered the closure of 44 media outlets in that country.

I want to ensure that the United States preserves its strong diplomatic efforts both in Iraq and with the Balkans. I urge you and your colleagues on the BBG to consider taking no further action in connection with the potential closure of the respective Broadcast Services until a complete review by Congress can be performed.

Thank you for your consideration.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress