



July 3, 2019

United States Senator Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Sent via email

Dear Senator Rubio:

The Committee for US International Broadcasting (CUSIB) has been contacted by journalists who wish to remain anonymous about two job postings for VOA Mandarin Network Directors, with pay grades of GS15:
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/537276300>
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/537277100>

We respectfully request for there to be Congressional hearings to review this new Voice of America Mandarin network, and for your intervention to freeze any USAGM hiring for Voice of America Mandarin Network until this matter is resolved.

As you know, the USAGM (formerly known as the BBG) has five Congressionally- authorized Networks: Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Office of Cuba Broadcasting, Radio Free Asia, and Middle East Broadcasting.

These aforementioned job postings suggest that a sixth Network has been created, with no mention to the public that it has been authorized by Congress. In fact, the job deadline for applying for these two positions is July 5, 2019.

It is the concern of the Committee for US International Broadcasting that this sixth Network, the Voice of America Mandarin Network, will infringe upon the three already-existing Services provided in the China Branch: Voice of America Cantonese, Mandarin and Tibetan Service that provide news and opinions from the United States as mandated by the US Congress in the Voice of America Charter.

The Congressionally-created jurisdiction specific to Mandarin Chinese listeners for broadcast purposes that the USAGM is now carving out for a sixth Network does not exist legally. If it were to become de-facto legalized, it would most certainly eviscerate the existing Cantonese and Tibetan Service, leaving the non-Mandarin speaking audiences kicked to the curb, seen as inconsequential, redundant, unnecessary and eventually defunded.

CUSIB has fought for years against the elimination of VOA Cantonese and Tibetan Service, and we see this lean, new Network idea as a way to eliminate those broadcasting services

This would play directly into the hands of China's government, leaving the Chinese-speaking world the option of speaking Mandarin, or not being informed.

Since VOA Mandarin fired several employees after the scandal of the widely-publicized Guo Wengui interview, we wonder if there are unused VOA funds being set aside for a runaway budget to create this new Network.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter, and I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ann Noonan'.

Ann Noonan
Executive Director
Committee for US International Broadcasting – www.cusib.org