

NPR's programming is amazing. Anyone who listened in during the China earthquakes a few years back can attest to that. I was in tears driving Snoqualmie pass to Idaho. It was heart-wrenching, educational and well done.

They provide a tremendous service. I completely disagree there is any bias whatever in the reporting they do.

As to federal funding, it is a rather small amount of their overall budget and it's more concerning for the local stations (think KUOW in Seattle and the station based at Washington State University, which transmits into Moscow, Pullman and all the way up to Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, I believe). That would impact, also, locally-based programming as well as an immensely-crucial educational and job-training asset for many aspiring young radio journalists at the University of Idaho's School of Journalism and Mass Media as well as the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication at WSU.

It's a big deal more at the local level than it is at the national NPR organization.

Anyone who listens to NPR knows they do some rather annoying fundraising drives both in the Spring and the Fall. The local stations set goals and don't stop bugging you on air until they reach it. But they always do. They have tremendous community support as well.

Let's not forget that the airwaves are publicly owned, and Americans have a right to a national, non-profit and non-partisan information outlet like NPR.

Again: I completely disagree with any accusations of bias in their reporting. So what if some of their execs have a personal ideology? Humans are opinionated. Journalists take their craft seriously and do their damndest to leave check their personal assumptions on stories - even purposefully challenging them in every story they write.

As to the accusation on here that conservatives like to be brainwashed and don't care about facts, I disagree with that, too. There are some insanely-intelligent conservative people out there, and I look at JimmyMAC as a great example, who base most of their belief system on a set of factual information. Just because they think differently than you do doesn't mean they're not basing their ideas on real info.

Meanwhile, there are, of course, people off all political persuasions that are simply interested in a certain path and don't care if facts get in the way. You see that in the birther movement. You see it in the 9/11-conspiracy movement.