

United States Senate

Senator Tom Coburn, MD

April 28, 2009

Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell,

I am requesting that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous consent agreements regarding Presidential nominees to the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG). On April 13, 2010 the Committee on Foreign Relations reported the following nominations to the Senate:

- Walter Isaacson, of Louisiana, as Chairman
- Victor Ashe, of Tennessee
- Michael Lynton, of California
- Susan McCue, of Virginia
- Dennis Mulhaupt, of California
- S. Enders Wimbush, of Virginia

Additionally, the Committee on Foreign Relations is still considering the nominations of Dana Perino of the District of Columbia, and Michael Meehan of Virginia to the Broadcasting Board of Governors. I request that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous consent agreements for these two nominations as well.

I have had longstanding concerns regarding transparency and effectiveness of our taxpayer funded international broadcasting agencies under the purview of the Broadcasting Board of Governors. In particular, I am troubled by the operations and management of Voice of America (VOA) given issues raised by the media, Inspector General, and former employees of VOA. Therefore, I have requested to meet with all the prospective nominees to discuss these issues. The Broadcasting Board of Governors performs a vital role regarding oversight and management of our international broadcasting. As the nation faces threats from the Middle East and in fact throughout the world, transparent and effective international broadcasting agencies are critical to ensuring our international broadcasts are in fact fulfilling the America's interests in securing peace for ourselves and our allies.

Again, thank you for protecting my rights on these nominations.

Sincerely,



Tom. A. Coburn, M.D.
U.S. Senator

CC: Senator John Kerry, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations
Senator Richard Lugar, Ranking Member, Committee on Foreign Relations