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The Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology
& the Arts Reference committee
S157 Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

We have just returned from a trip to the USA and Canada where attempts to see or hear an intelligent Television or Radio Program was abysmal. We were so looking forward to the ABC once again. How disappointing, during our absence programs have deteriorated. Clearly funding cuts have cut deep.

We are more than ever convinced of the need to have an ABC which is independent from political and commercial influences.

It is clear that the present board and Managing Director of the ABC have lost confidence of the ABC staff and the viewing and listening public.

We understand that the above Committee will meet to decide how the board members of the ABC will be selected.

It is essential that the Senate inquiry approve of a system which enables the Board members to be appointed totally free from any obligation to government and are chosen on their merits to guide a free and independent Board which is free to spend the funding as they see fit and are not reliant on any commercial funding pressures or obligations.

Peter and Kathie Strickland