

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 1461.

This Bill would extend the sunset for the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (“OETA”), Oklahoma’s taxpayer funded television network. Though OETA’s programming might be worthwhile for the viewer, funding a television station is not a core function of state government.

I have been consistent in my position that public broadcasting should not depend on government subsidies. In 2023 I vetoed a similar measure (HB 2820), and in 2022 I vetoed sending OETA an additional \$8 million in taxpayer funding (HB 1009xx). The Legislature chose to override those vetoes.

Now, President Trump has adopted the same position at the federal level by ending taxpayer subsidies for National Public Radio (“NPR”) and the Public Broadcasting Service (“PBS”) on May 1, 2025. Those platforms have survived and continue to operate.

President Trump has shown that ending guaranteed taxpayer subsidies for public broadcasting is not the crisis its defenders claim it to be. Oklahoma should follow his lead by letting viewers and advertisers fund OETA, not Oklahoma taxpayers.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 1461.