Hi Friends —

You’ve heard the news: just because some mugs in Congress hate public radio — I mean really hate it — federal funding for NPR has been cut in a heap, and now we’re in jeopardy. And don’t be fooled. This is nothing to “cut with the knife.” The really bad news is that the money allocated for public radio (or, at least, federal dollars) is a (relative) drop in the bucket. It has to do with making decisions (for some reason) and unfortimated as thecrete who voted those damages into office.

So what can you do about it? First, be informed: The National Public Radio Friends have just released an excellent 24-page issue of their newsletter that is a must-read. The Friends are an organization with a distinguished history that, among other things, was founded to fight against the “titanic” cuts of 1975. This new issue is called “SOPAC” (which is a contraction of the name of the group’s former home in South Orange, where we have had fantastic concerts for over 30 years).

SOPAC’s spring membership drive runs from April 8 to 15. Fight the dumbing down of America and keep quality public radio — and all the other public media — which are so essential to our democratic institutions — from being decimated. We need you. The time to get involved is now. You can join the Friends and participate in SOPAC’s efforts to keep public radio on the air.

SOPAC is an excellent source for international news and events that are presented in a way that truly enhances one’s understanding of contemporary issues. It is a new and very welcome addition to the public media landscape.

The Deer Head Inn, 125 Main St., Madison, NJ (973) 822-2899

Tues.-Sun. 973-822-2899

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ATTENTION LOCAL JAZZ ARTISTS! If you’ve yet to sign up and play your blues, jazz, or Latin music on WNTI for a minimum of 15 minutes and six times per year, please let us know and we’ll be happy to show you how you can.

Steve Aronson is the host of Just Jazz and a classically trained trombonist. He’s a native of Montclair who has studied with top bandleader Gerald Wilson. He also spent a year in South Africa with the legendary Count Basie Orchestra, and is a frequent feature on the WNTI schedule.

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Visit SOPAC’s website at SOPAC.org for details on SOPAC’s current season of events. For more information on SOPAC’s annual spring membership drive, please call 973-898-7710.

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