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December 19, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

We respectfully request that when the Senate convenes an Impeachment trial of President Trump, you allow C-SPAN to position our cameras in the Senate Chamber to cover those proceedings.

There are few duties more significant or historic than when the Senate exercises its constitutional role of impeaching a president. The feed produced by the Senate Recording Studio, operating under standard Senate guidelines, provides a restricted view of Senate floor debates. We believe, and hope you will agree, that the American public deserves a more comprehensive view of the Senate trial.

It has long been common practice during the State of the Union address and Joint Meetings of Congress to allow private news media cameras to cover those speeches. The historic nature of a Senate trial and the intense interest on the part of millions of Americans -- and the world -- argues for a similar approach in the Senate.

C-SPAN brings our 40 years of experience covering Congressional proceedings to this task. We commit to working with your staff and the Senate Radio/TV Gallery on any logistics questions regarding the number of cameras and their placement within the chamber. In addition, we will make our feed available to all congressionally-accredited media organizations wishing to cover the trial.

We hope you will give serious consideration to our request. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have about this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Swain". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Susan Swain

cc: Senator Charles Schumer, Senate Minority Leader
Senator Roy Blunt, Senate Rules Committee Chairman
Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senate Rules Committee Ranking Member