

March 11, 2010

Ms. Ann McFeatters President Gridiron Club Washington, DC

Dear President McFeatters:

The Gridiron Club's Executive Committee is undoubtedly acutely aware of the enormous transformation underway in the media. Many of the club's leaders can directly testify to the swift-moving changes in media organizations, a digital revolution accelerated by the country's economic challenges.

Coupled with these changes is an increased desire by the public for greater openness in Washington, frequently expressed in national public opinion polls. Together, these trends form the argument for our renewed request to the Gridiron Club to open your annual dinner to C-SPAN cameras.

As a journalism community, our arguments for greater access and openness can be effectively countered with the continued reality that one of the Washington press corps' best-known institutions maintains an off-the-record policy.

Additionally, the gains in social networking ensure that each year more of the Club's dinner program is surreptitiously posted to social networking sites on a nearly real-time basis, where the video quickly makes it to national and local newscasts.

For these reasons, we request that the Gridiron Executive Committee under your leadership takes the historic step of opening their 2010 dinner to cameras. We will work with you to employ the latest digital technology to make the cameras, lights and microphones as unobtrusive to your event as possible.

Respectfully,

Brian P. Lamb