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February 2, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer:

We respectfully request that when the Senate begins the Impeachment trial of President Trump on February 9th, you allow C-SPAN to position our cameras in the Senate Chamber to cover these proceedings.

There are few duties more significant 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 this historic 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 second Senate trial of a President of the United States and the intense interest on the part of millions of Americans argues for greater media access.

C-SPAN brings over 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 questions regarding the number of cameras, etc. 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. However, if you decide against allowing our cameras in the chamber, we ask that you give the Senate Recording Studio permission to provide isolated feeds of their Senate cameras to the media. This will allow the television networks and C-SPAN to produce a more complete record of the trial. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Swain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Swain".

Susan Swain

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