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VIA E-FILING (ECFS)

July 5, 2016

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Notice of Ex Parte Communication
Implementation of Section 103 of the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014 –
Totality of the Circumstances Test (MB Docket No. 15-216) and
Promoting Innovation and Competition in the Provision of Multichannel
Video Programming Distribution Services (MB Docket No. 14-261)**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 30, 2016, Wade Hargrove of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, L.L.P., counsel for the ABC Television Affiliates Association and the NBC Television Affiliates, and the undersigned, counsel for the CBS Television Network Affiliates Association and the FBC Television Affiliates Association (collectively the four Affiliates Associations are referred to as the "Affiliates Associations"), met with the following officials of the Federal Communications Commission (the "Commission") to discuss the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-referenced dockets: William Lake, Chief of the Media Bureau; Mary Beth Murphy, Deputy Chief of the Media Bureau; Nancy Murphy, Associate Chief of the Media Bureau; Brendan Holland, Chief of the Media Bureau's Industry Analysis Division; Martha Heller, Chief of the Media Bureau's Policy Division; Steven Broeckaert, Senior Deputy Chief of the Media Bureau's Policy Division; Diana Sokolow of the Media Bureau; Philip L. Verveer, Senior Counselor to Chairman Tom Wheeler; and Marc Paul, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel.

The representatives of the Affiliates Associations briefly reviewed their participation in the above-referenced dockets with the filing of joint comments and reply comments in both and the recent filing of an April 14, 2016 letter in MB Docket No. 15-216. The importance of retransmission consent to the Affiliates Associations was emphasized, as was the fact that the Affiliates Associations represent hundreds of local television stations that have negotiated tens of thousands of retransmission consent agreements under the existing rules and regulations of the Commission. Those negotiations very rarely resulted in service disruptions of any kind. It was also noted that the filings made by some MVPDs purporting to show examples of bad faith negotiating tactics on the part of broadcasters must be taken with a grain of salt and simply as an effort at tilting the negotiating table to their advantage. The representatives of the Affiliates Associations also discussed the roles of their networks in the retransmission consent process and reiterated their previously-submitted position that, to the extent a network confiscated the

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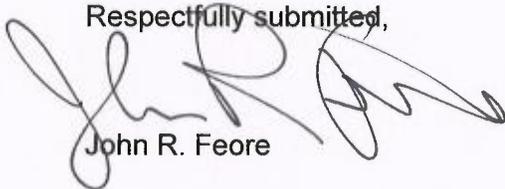
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statutory right of its affiliates to negotiate retransmission consent agreements with any video distributor, it would constitute a violation of the Commission's existing network affiliate rules.

With regard to the Commission's review of the developing online video distribution market and the carriage of local broadcast station signals, the representatives of the Affiliates Associations pointed out the recent developments and announcements that various companies have initiated or are considering launching OVD operations and their apparent interest in carrying local broadcast stations on those systems. It was noted that the Affiliates Associations have met with representatives of the Telletopia Foundation, which is now also a member of the TV Neutrality Alliance, and the representatives of the Affiliates Associations noted the interest in the carriage of local broadcast signals as evidenced by the representatives of Telletopia. It was also noted how the carriage of local broadcast signals is currently being handled by the developing OVDs and the roles of the networks and the affiliates in those cases. The representatives of the Affiliates Associations urged the Commission to proceed to a decision in MB Docket No. 14-261 and to adopt rules to regulate OVDs in such a manner as to trigger the retransmission consent rules of the Commission and the obligation to negotiate with local broadcast stations for the carriage of their signals.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Feore

cc (via email):

Wade Hargrove, Esquire

William Lake, Chief of the Media Bureau

Mary Beth Murphy, Deputy Chief of the Media Bureau

Nancy Murphy, Associate Chief of the Media Bureau

Brendan Holland, Chief of the Media Bureau's Industry Analysis Division

Martha Heller, Chief of the Media Bureau's Policy Division

Steven Broecker, Senior Deputy Chief of the Media Bureau's Policy Division

Diana Sokolow, Media Bureau

Philip Vermeer, Senior Counselor to Chairman Tom Wheeler

Marc Paul, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel