



Submitted via ECFS

July 21, 2016

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

Re: *Ex Parte* disclosure pursuant to 47 (CFR) § 1.1206(b) in 14-50, 09-182, 07-294;

Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday July 20, 2016, in my capacity as Common Cause Special Adviser I spoke by telephone with David Grossman, Chief of Staff and Media Policy Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn concerning the above referenced proceeding.

I stressed the continuing importance of maintaining the Newspaper Broadcast Cross-ownership rule. This rule is as timely and important now as when it was instituted. Diversity of ownership and viewpoint have been harmed by media industry consolidation, and our civic dialogue has suffered from fewer voices in communities across the land.

One mega-company controlling both a newspaper and broadcast market is tantamount to a monopoly. Additionally, small and diverse advertisers quickly encounter rising costs for their market promotion. As the courts have consistently made clear, the Commission may not further relax ownership rules without first studying the impact such rules would have on diverse ownership.

Contrary to arguments that the rule is obsolete, I noted how strenuously opponents of the rule are pushing for its elimination, a justifiable inference being that they see opportunities for more consolidation absent the cross-ownership rule. The Newspaper-Broadcast Cross-ownership continues to serve the public interest and it needs to be retained as is.

For any questions, please contact Common Cause Program Director Todd O'Boyle at toboyle@commoncause.org or (202) 736-5797.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Copps". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent part.

Hon. Michael J. Copps

CC: David Grossman