

July 23rd, 2017

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly oppose Sinclair Broadcast Group's proposed purchase of Tribune Media (MB Docket 17-179). This sale will benefit a multi-billion dollar corporation while threatening our democracy and harming consumers in our community.

Approving this \$3.9 billion deal will make Sinclair the largest owner of local television stations in the country. Sinclair would then own more than 230 stations in 108 television markets, reaching more than 70 percent of U.S. households. Allowing Sinclair to control such a large share of the market threatens our democracy by infringing upon the critical role local news stations play in guaranteeing the free and independent press.

Sinclair's proposal is particularly concerning because of its well documented practice of requiring its local trusted affiliates to run centrally produced, misleading partisan content. Sinclair imposes this deceptive practice in order to bias local news coverage that viewers trust and rely upon. For example, Sinclair recently hired Boris Epshteyn as chief political analyst even though Epshteyn held a position in the Trump Administration and is now under investigation for potentially colluding with Russia. Notwithstanding Epshteyn's clear bias, Sinclair just announced that it will force local affiliates to run his misleading "must-run" segments at least nine times per week—up from three times per week.

Sinclair claims that this purchase will benefit its audience. It will not. Sinclair intends to reduce consumers' ability to choose content and misleadingly turn trusted local broadcasters into a mouthpiece for the Trump Administration.

The FCC should defend our democracy, protect consumers, and reject Sinclair's attempt to further mislead its viewers.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bryan Caforio
Santa Clarita, CA