



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0529

479

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

June 13, 2018

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to you regarding the transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. and Tribune Media Company¹ currently pending before the Federal Communications Commission. Specifically, we write to express that while we believe the FCC should reject this merger outright, it is our opinion that approval should absolutely not be granted before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit rules on *Free Press v. FCC*,² given the implications of the UHF discount for the Sinclair-Tribune transaction.

Since the beginning of 2017, the Federal Communications Commission has undertaken a variety of actions without which the Sinclair-Tribune merger would not be lawful. These actions struck down protections that are crucial for the FCC's mission to promote localism and diversity in media, and called into question the FCC's commitment to protecting the public interest, which is one of its core purposes.³ One of these is the reinstatement of the UHF Discount.⁴ The goal of this letter is not to weigh in on whether or not this reinstatement makes sense. Rather, we would like to bring your attention to the harmful situation that could result should the FCC make a favorable decision on the Sinclair-Tribune merger before the D.C. Circuit has had the opportunity to rule.

¹ Federal Communications Commission, "Media Bureau Establishes Pleading Cycle for Applications to Transfer Control of Tribune Media Company to Sinclair Broadcasting Group, Inc. and Permit-But-Disclose Ex Parte Status for the Proceeding, Public Notice, MB Docket 17-179," July 6, 2017 *32 FCC Record* 5481 (<https://www.fcc.gov/transaction/sinclair-tribune>).

² *Free Press et al. v. Federal Communications Commission et al.*, case number [17-1129](#), in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

³ For example, section 310(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. §310(d)) prohibits the transfer, assignment, or disposition of any license of a broadcast station unless the FCC determines that the public interest, convenience, and necessity will be served.

⁴ See Federal Communications Commission, "Amendment of Section 73.3555(e) of the Commission's Rules, National Television Multiple Ownership Rule, , Order on Reconsideration, MB Docket 13-236," April 21 2017, *32 FCC Record* 3903 (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/reinstatement-uhf-discount>).

Due process is important. Confidence in the courts ensures confidence in our laws and institutions. Undermining a decision-making process by the courts harms public confidence in the FCC's ability to make decisions that are consistent with public interest and current law. In *Free Press v. FCC*, the outcome of the case could have significant consequences for the Sinclair-Tribune merger. As you know, counting only the stations that Sinclair Broadcast Group owns, its national reach without the UHF discount is already 38.8% pre-merger.⁵ Regardless of any future comprehensive reevaluation of the Congressionally-set 39% national ownership cap, should the D.C. Circuit rule against the FCC, the Sinclair-Tribune merger would be unlawful.

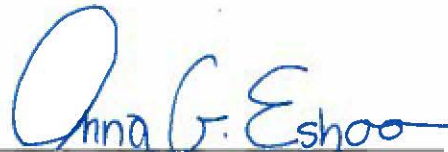
If the FCC approves the merger before a D.C. Circuit decision that strikes down the UHF Discount, the FCC will have created government-sanctioned Sinclair dominance of the broadcast industry. No other company will be able to compete with the combined Sinclair-Tribune, but as importantly, nor should we want *any* content company to reach that scale of outsize power. We believe the gravity of this potential scenario alone should compel the FCC to either block the Sinclair-Tribune merger or at least wait until after the D.C. Circuit rules. A ruling from the D.C. Circuit could come in the next few months.

We strongly urge the FCC to seriously consider the implications of the aforementioned D.C. Circuit case for the Sinclair-Tribune merger and refrain from taking any actions to approve the transaction before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rules on *Free Press v. FCC*. Though we believe this merger is not in the public interest and thus should be rejected outright, at the very least the FCC should not grant approval before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit rules on *Free Press v. FCC*.

Sincerely,



TONY CARDENAS
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress


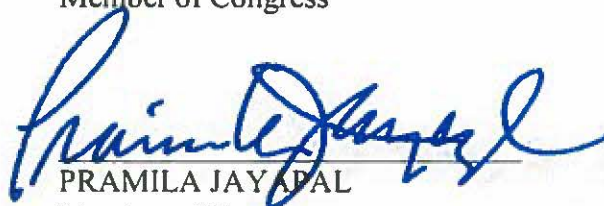
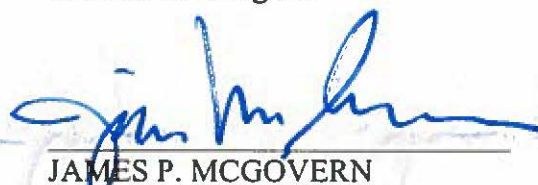
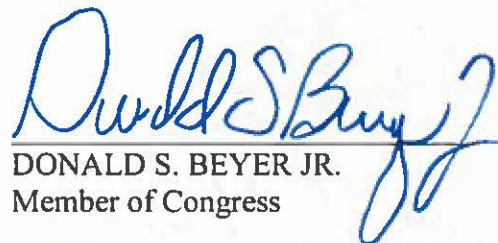

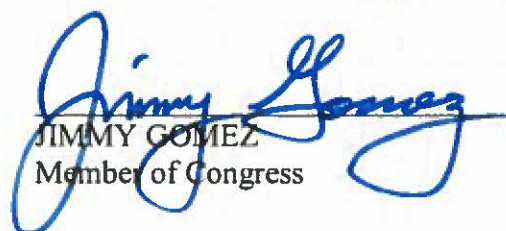
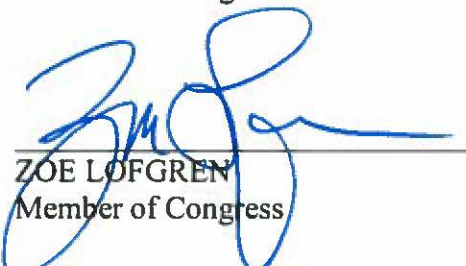


YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress




JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

⁵ In addition, Sinclair operates and/or provides services to, but does not own, stations in the Wilkes Barre-Scranton Scranton, PA television market and the Gainesville, FL television market. Sinclair Broadcast Group, 2017 Annual Report, pp. 2-5, <http://sbgi.net/investor-relations/#AnnualReports>. Combined, those markets reach an additional 0.58% of U.S. television households.



MICHAEL DOYLE
Member of Congress
ALAN S. LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress
DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress
PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress
JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress
JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress
RO KHANNA
Member of Congress
EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress
DONALD S. BEYER JR.
Member of Congress
SCOTT H. PETERS
Member of Congress
JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress
ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress
JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress
DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress


CAROL SHEA-PORTER
Member of Congress



HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES
Member of Congress


ROBERT A. BRADY
Member of Congress


LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress


DAVID E. PRICE
Member of Congress

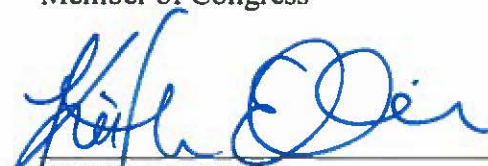

PETER A. DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress

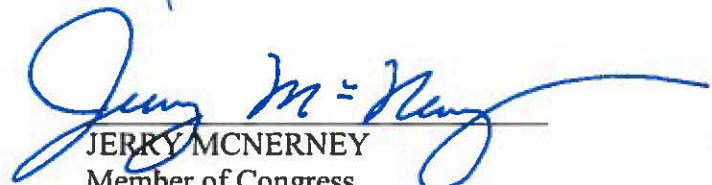

MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress


BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress


BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress


KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress


ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress

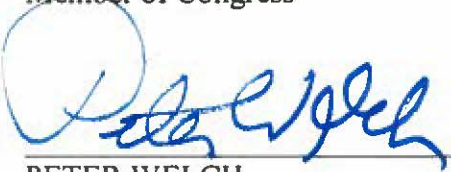

JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



JOSÉ E. SERRANO
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress



J. LUIS CORREA
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Tony Cárdenas
U.S. House of Representatives
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

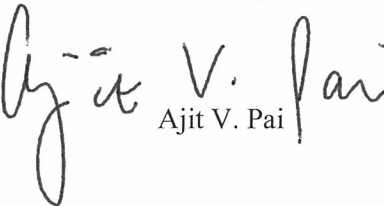
Dear Congressman Cárdenas:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

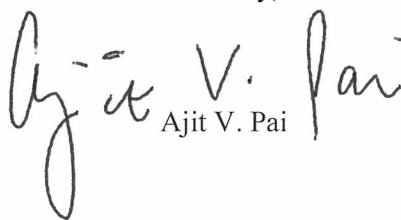
Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
2058 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

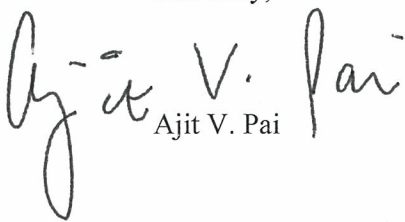
Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

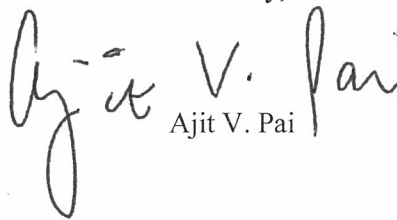
Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mike Doyle
U.S. House of Representatives
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

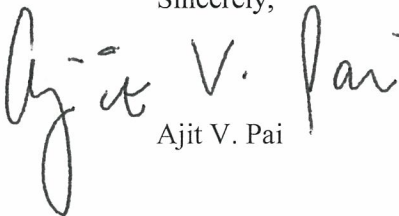
Dear Congressman Doyle:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a cursive script and the last name "Pai" in a more formal, upright script. The middle initial "V." is written in a simple, clear font.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
U.S. House of Representatives
125 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lowenthal:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "A" and a long, sweeping "P".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2018

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Dan Kildee
U.S. House of Representatives
227 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

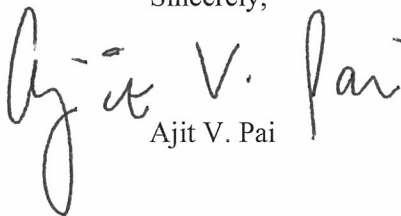
Dear Congressman Kildee:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal
U.S. House of Representatives
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

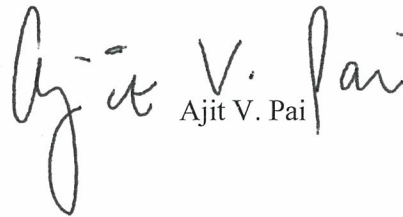
Dear Congresswoman Jayapal:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part of the script.
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
U.S. House of Representatives
431 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

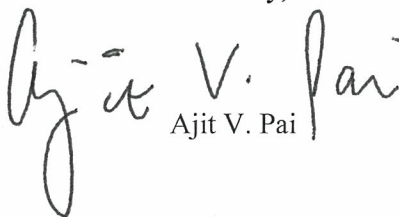
Dear Congressman Raskin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jim McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

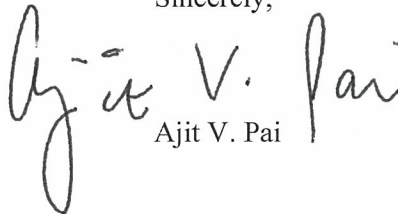
Dear Congressman McGovern:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Ro Khanna
U.S. House of Representatives
513 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

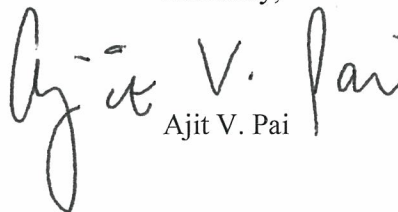
Dear Congressman Khanna:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

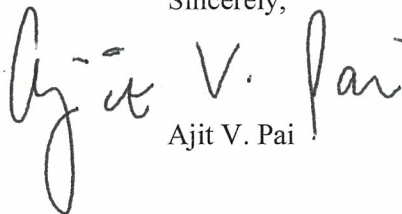
Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Don Beyer
U.S. House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

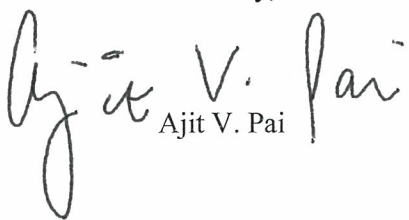
Dear Congressman Beyer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Scott Peters
U.S. House of Representatives
1122 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

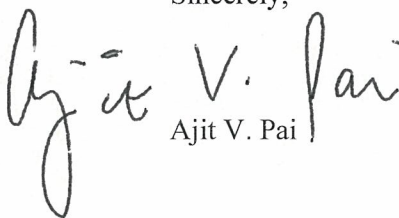
Dear Congressman Peters:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
U.S. House of Representatives
1226 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

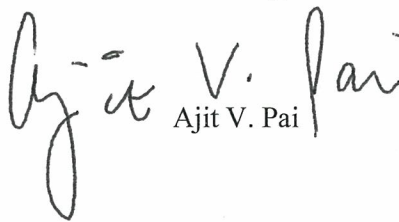
Dear Congressman Gomez:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
U.S. House of Representatives
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

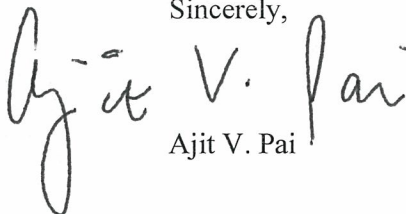
Dear Congresswoman Lofgren:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a cursive-like script and the last name "Pai" in a more formal, upright style. The middle initial "V." is written in a simple, clear font.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jared Huffman
U.S. House of Representatives
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

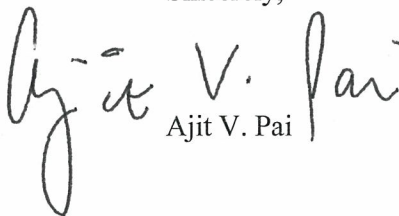
Dear Congressman Huffman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part of the signature.
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Darren Soto
U.S. House of Representatives
1429 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

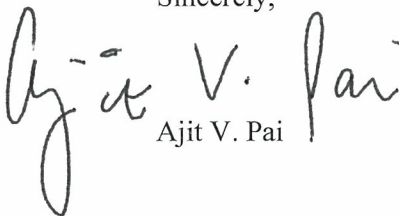
Dear Congressman Soto:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a cursive-like script and the last name "Pai" in a more formal, upright style. The middle initial "V." is written in a simple, clear font between the first and last names.
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

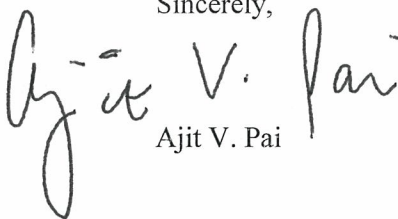
Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "A" and a long, sweeping "P".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter
U.S. House of Representatives
1530 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

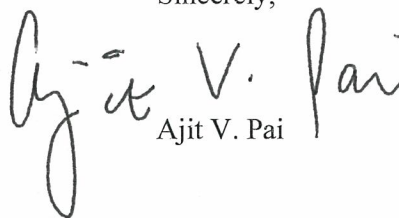
Dear Congresswoman Shea-Porter:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
U.S. House of Representatives
1607 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

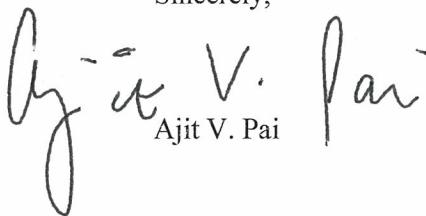
Dear Congressman Jeffries:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Robert A. Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
2004 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

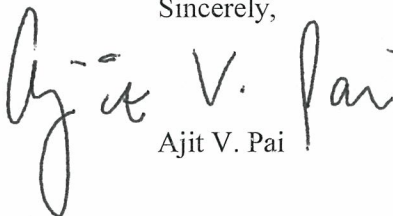
Dear Congressman Brady:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
U.S. House of Representatives
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

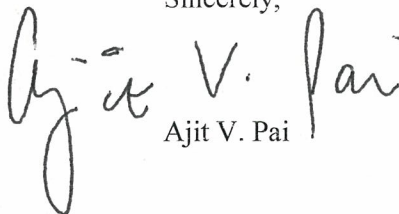
Dear Congresswoman Roybal-Allard:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable David E. Price
U.S. House of Representatives
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

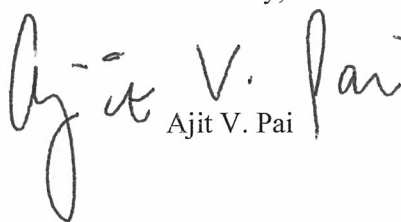
Dear Congressman Price:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

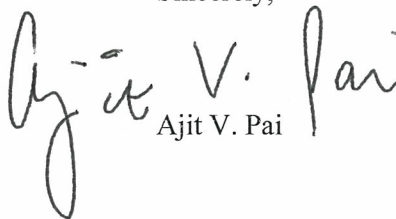
Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
U.S. House of Representatives
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

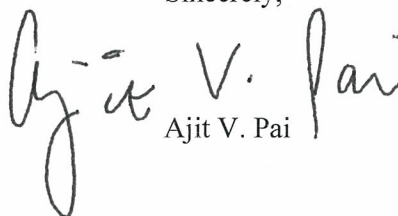
Dear Congresswoman Pingree:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
U.S. House of Representatives
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

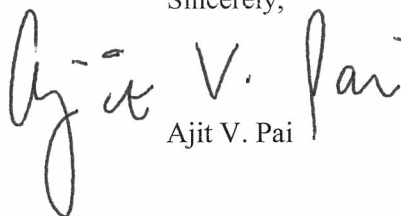
Dear Congresswoman Kaptur:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
U.S. House of Representatives
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

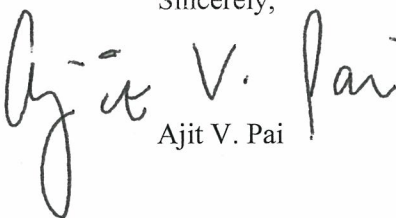
Dear Congressman Rush:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Betty McCollum
U.S. House of Representatives
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

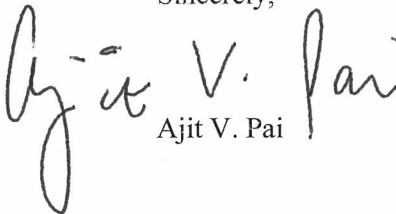
Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Keith Ellison
U.S. House of Representatives
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

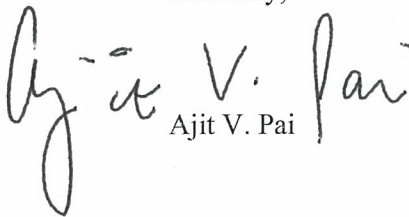
Dear Congressman Ellison:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Adam Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

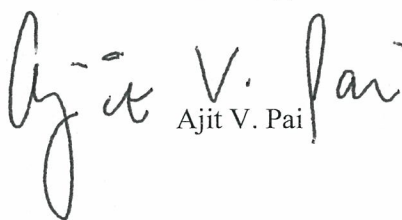
Dear Congressman Smith:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
U.S. House of Representatives
2265 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

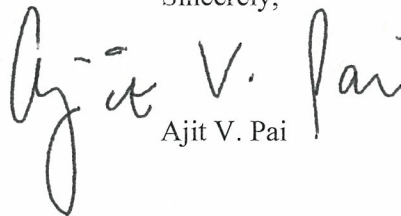
Dear Congressman McNerney:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Barbara Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

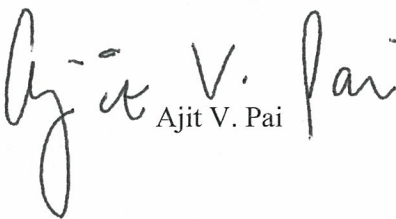
Dear Congresswoman Lee:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
U.S. House of Representatives
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

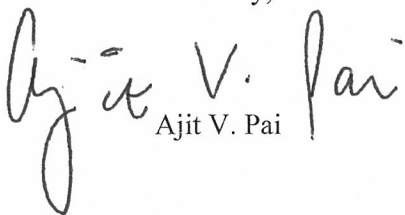
Dear Congresswoman Velazquez:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

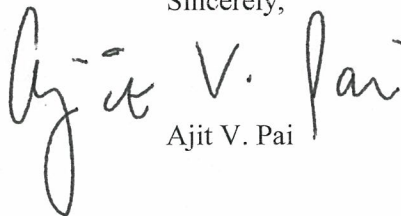
Dear Congressman Welch:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Ajit" written in a cursive script and the last name "Pai" in a more formal, upright script. The middle initial "V." is written in a smaller, simpler font between the two names.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

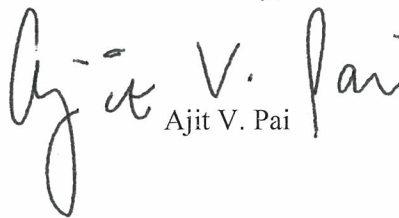
Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano
U.S. House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

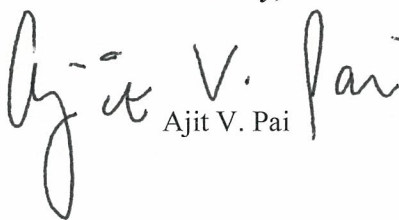
Dear Congressman Serrano:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Steve Cohen
U.S. House of Representatives
2404 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

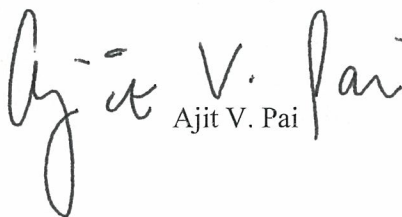
Dear Congressman Cohen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
2438 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

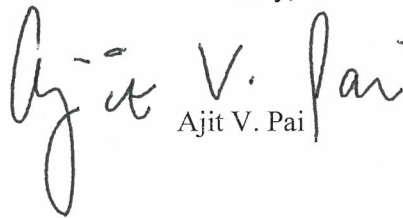
Dear Congressman Garamendi:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Mike Quigley
U.S. House of Representatives
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

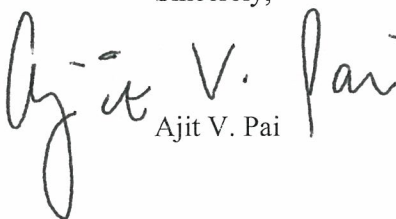
Dear Congressman Quigley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Lou Correa
U.S. House of Representatives
1039 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

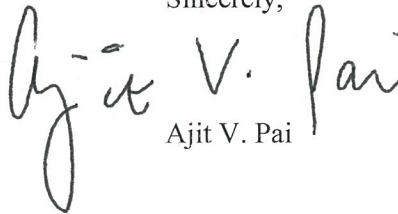
Dear Congressman Correa:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

Based on a thorough review of the record, I have serious concerns about this transaction. Given these concerns, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to determine whether Sinclair affirmatively misrepresented or omitted material facts with the intent to consummate this transaction without fully complying with our broadcast ownership rules. This order was approved unanimously by the Commission and released on July 19, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "A" and a long, sweeping "P".

Ajit V. Pai