August 21, 2017

To: Federal Communications Commission

Comment on 17-179

I urge you to deny the application of Sinclair Broadcasting for approval to acquire Tribune. The proposed transaction will significantly alter the balance of media coverage in my local market and will affect the oldest television station in the state. To this point in time, that station has maintained journalistic ethics in providing fair and balanced coverage in spite of the lessening of regulatory requirements for the same. In contrast, Sinclair requires its stations to render its opinions under the guise of news reporting and thus will deprive this community of a well-established, credible and neutral news source. Maintaining a diverse media market is critical to the future success of this state and the country should be paramount in the FCC's decision, along with its obligation to protect basic principles of freedom of the press.

Betsy M. Pain