

MB Docket #17-179

**Subject:** FW: opposition to Sinclair Media television monopoly - end of democracy

Accepted / Filed

**From:** k. stallark <stallark@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:14 PM  
**To:** David Brown; David Roberts  
**Subject:** opposition to Sinclair Media television monopoly - end of democracy

AUG 21 2017

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Please do not allow Sinclair's request to buy more stations to go through. Sinclair would be allowed to own an overwhelming number of US television stations, and the examples of the company forcing "must air" opinion pieces under the guise of "news" is terrifying. Democracy will crumble if the media becomes state propaganda.

*One news source reports: ...the company's close connections to Trump have allowed it to skirt market regulations. Already the biggest broadcaster in the country, Sinclair is poised to make its biggest move yet. If the FCC approves Sinclair's \$3.9bn purchase of an additional 42 stations, it would reach into the homes of almost three-quarters of Americans.*

*Sinclair forces its local stations to run pro-Trump "news" segments. In April, they hired Boris Epshteyn, a former Trump campaign spokesman and member of the White House press office, as its chief political analyst. His "must-run" 10-minute political commentary segments unsurprisingly hewed closely to the Trump administration's message. The news and analysis website Slate, referring to Epshteyn's contributions, said: "As far as propaganda goes, this is pure, industrial-strength stuff."*

*It has a long history of airing material which has often been controversial, and for which it has been sanctioned in the past – all the while purporting to simply report the "news".*

*In 2004, Sinclair leadership reportedly ordered its local affiliate stations to air a documentary critical of the Democratic presidential nominee, John Kerry, based on allegations which later proved unfounded – that Kerry had exaggerated his record as a swift-boat officer in the Vietnam war.*

Please share my concerns with the committee.

Kathryn Stallard  
Georgetown, Texas

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE