**Re: Sinclair/Tribune 17-179**

Please DENY THIS MERGER REQUEST!

Sinclair’s practice of forcing stations to promote an extreme conservative perspective and distort local news **actively threatens the wellbeing of marginalized communities across the nation, specifically communities of color** and immigrants. People of color disproportionately rely on broadcast news and thus will be disproportionately harmed by a reduction in localism, competition and diversity.

Sinclair already owns or operates 173 broadcast television stations, consisting of 528 channels, in 81 markets, with affiliations with all major networks, and is already the largest local news provider in the country; Tribune owns or operates 42 broadcast television stations in 33 markets, also with affiliations with all major networks.

Tribune also owns cable network WGN America, digital multicast network Antenna TV and WGN-Radio. Tribune owns and operates broadcast television stations in the top three markets in the country, seven stations in the top ten markets, and 34 stations in the top 50 markets.

If the FCC allows this proposal, the merged Sinclair company would reach 72% of U.S. television households and would own and operate the largest number of broadcast television stations of any station group!

As required by Congress, the FCC reviews its media ownership rules every four years to determine "whether the rules are in the public interest."  U.S. law currently states that station group collectively can reach no more than 39% of all U.S. TV households.

I want to know, **how would almost doubling TV HouseHold reach for Sinclair be in the best public interest?** It's widely known that they require, no - force - their local stations to air canned pieces with very strong political bent  (in this case, quite conservative and right-leaning), irrespective of whether or not the local station would normally choose to air such a (conservative -leaning) piece! Irrespective of whether such a viewpoint is appropriate to, and appreciated by such a particular market.

In FCC's very own statements,  you prioritize:

* Supporting the nation's economy by ensuring an appropriate COMPETITIVE framework for the unfolding of the communications revolution
* Revising media regulations so that new technologies flourish alongside DIVERSITY AND LOCALISM.

Please, make the right decision for the American PEOPLE and DENY THIS MERGER REQUEST!