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December 12, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

As Sinclair Broadcast Group's Vice President of News, I am writing to let you know that I share the frustration Senator Claire McCaskill recently shared with you regarding the lack of traditional local news programming on KDNL-TV, Sinclair's ABC affiliate in St. Louis. Where my view diverges from that of Senator McCaskill is how to remedy this problem.

Contrary to Senator McCaskill's assertion, Sinclair has not "demonstrated a stunning disregard for local news." In fact, Sinclair has demonstrated exactly the opposite, as evidenced by the more than 2,400 hours of local news, produced each week by in excess of 4,000 news employees located in 79 markets throughout the country. In other words, the lack of local news on Sinclair's station in St. Louis is the exception, not the norm.

Our inability to broadcast traditional local news in St. Louis is a result of numerous factors, including the historic weakness of the station (which was an independent television station for many years), the entrenched news viewership habits of the St. Louis public, and extremely high production costs in that market. Notwithstanding these issues, KDNL did broadcast news at a significant economic loss for many years before being forced to discontinue the production of local news to meet our public company fiduciary obligations to our shareholders. We subsequently aired newscasts produced by another station in St. Louis before that station discontinued this relationship. Thereafter we launched a news talk show in order to provide some news programming in St. Louis.

A primary benefit of the Tribune acquisition as it relates to the St. Louis market would be the efficiencies created by owning more than one station in that market. Simply put, it is far less expensive for an existing news producing station to share news resources with an additional in-market station than it would be for such additional station to produce news on its own. As a result, if we are allowed to purchase Tribune's television stations in St. Louis, we plan to begin producing and broadcasting traditional local news programming on KDNL. This is not something that we believe would take place if KDNL were to remain separately owned, whether by Sinclair or another broadcast company

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Sinclair takes its public interest obligations very seriously and is extremely proud of our strong commitment to local news across our entire platform. We appreciate Senator McCaskill highlighting the unique situation which precludes the ABC station in St. Louis from being able to produce news on its own and are glad to have had this opportunity to point out the tremendous public benefit that would result from the combination of the Sinclair and Tribune television stations in that market.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Scott Livingston  
Scott Livingston  
Vice President News

Cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill