



WASHINGTON BUREAU
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

November 14, 2014

Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), our nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized grassroots based civil rights organization, I express our strong support for MB DOCKET NO. 14-77-BTNC News Channel, creating a Public/Private partnership between Florida A&M University (FAMU) and a racial and ethnic minority owned professional broadcast media group. This new partnership promises to produce and distribute 14 hours per day of news, informational and educational programming targeted to an underserved racial and ethnic minority audience, including the African American community.

I write to join with Members of Congress and numerous other racial and ethnic minority organizations in strongly encouraging the Commission to exercise, to the fullest extent of your statutory discretion, support for Black Television News Channel's (BTNC) request for temporary regulatory relief. The FCC has the responsibility to enable and encourage news, informational and educational programming that addresses the needs of diverse segments of our society.

Minority media ownership is now at levels so low as to be almost nonexistent. This has a significant impact on what news and information is chosen for dissemination, and how that information is portrayed. BTNC's mission is to produce intelligent diverse programming that is informative, educational, inspirational and empowering for its predominantly African American audience. BTNC will also create a television platform for African

American newsmakers to participate in the mainstream media debate concerning issues of specific interest to our nation's millions of people of color and beyond. The launch of BTNC will also create jobs, generate much needed economic stimulus in our nation's urban markets, and promote the work of Black achievers creating positive role models for African American youth.

We believe a temporary waiver to enable the nation's first African American news network to begin providing news and information geared towards a black audience is an important and meaningful means of achieving these important objectives.

If there is anything else I can do to help further clarify our position supporting this important and exciting new initiative, I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hilary O. Shelton', written in a cursive style.

Hilary O. Shelton
Director

NAACP Washington Bureau and
Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy