

July 15, 2015

**VIA EMAIL AND ECFS**

Chairman Tom Wheeler  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly

The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: *Broadcast Incentive Auction Comment Public Notice Auction 1000, 1001 and 1002; Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions; Policies Regarding Mobile Spectrum Holdings (AU Docket No. 14-252) (GN Docket No. 12-268) (WT Docket No. 12-269), Notice of Ex Parte Communication***

Dear Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai, and O’Rielly:

We are writing in response to reports that the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) may soon take an action that could imperil the only remaining reserved spectrum devoted for usage by wireless microphones and that that action could have an unintended negative impact on local news gathering. We jointly represent the nation’s local ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX stations, both those owned by the networks and those independently-owned, as well as Univision, Inc. Together, we share a commitment to provide our viewers with the most current and accurate information on breaking news and local emergencies.

We are concerned that, as part of the incentive auction re-packing, the FCC may place TV stations in the portion of the duplex gap that the FCC previously reserved for use solely by wireless microphones. Although we understand that the FCC intends to minimize the number of markets in which this could happen, we remain concerned that the implications of this decision have not been fully explored, as well as with the level of uncertainty about which and how many markets will be impacted by this potential decision.

The local television stations that we represent rely on wireless microphones for local news gathering and coverage of local emergencies. As the Commission knows, the amount of spectrum available for wireless microphones has been substantially decreased in recent years and will be further decreased as a result of the re-packing. It is critical to preserve reserved spectrum for use by wireless microphones. The small amount of reserved spectrum in the duplex gap is the *only* remaining reserved spectrum solely for use by wireless microphones. Our stations’ news gathering teams need the ability to operate nimbly

in response to unpredictable local events and weather, like the recent Amtrak derailment outside of Philadelphia, the April protests in Baltimore, and the sudden flooding in San Antonio this May. The very nature of these events means we ourselves cannot predict which television stations in which markets will need to operationalize at a moment's notice – which means there are no “safe” markets in which the duplex gap can be impaired without threatening our stations’ ability to cover news.

We respectfully ask that the FCC reject the proposal to place television stations in the duplex gap in a manner that could imperil the only reserved spectrum for wireless microphones. At a minimum, the FCC should more fully explore the precise impact of this decision on wireless microphone usage and local news gathering.

Respectfully submitted,

**ABC Television Affiliates Association**

/s/

---

By: Emily Barr  
President & CEO, Graham Media Group  
Chair, ABC Television Affiliates Association Board  
of Governors

**The Walt Disney Company**

/s/

---

By: Rebecca Campbell  
President, ABC Owned Television Stations

**CBS Television Network Affiliates Association**

/s/

---

By: Michael J. Fiorile  
Vice Chairman and CEO, Dispatch Broadcast Group

**CBS Corporation**

/s/

---

By: Peter Dunn  
President, CBS Television Stations

**NBC Affiliates Association**

/s/

---

By: Ralph Oakley  
President & CEO, Quincy Newspapers, Inc.  
President-Chairman, NBC Affiliates Association

**NBCUniversal, Inc.**

/s/

---

By: Valari Staab  
President, NBCUniversal Owned Television  
Stations

**FBC Television Affiliates Association**

/s/

---

By: Jeff Rosser  
Senior Vice President, Raycom Media  
Chairman, Board of Governors,  
FBC Television Affiliates Association

**FOX Television Stations, Inc.**

/s/

---

By: Jack Abernethy  
CEO, FOX Television Stations, Inc.

**Univision Communications Inc.**

/s/

---

By: Kevin Cuddihy  
President, Local Media, Univision Communications Inc.

cc: Jessica Almond, Esq.  
Matthew Berry, Esq.  
Brendan Carr, Esq.  
Robin Colwell, Esq.  
Gary Epstein, Esq.  
Ms. Valery Galasso  
Chanelle Hardy, Esq.  
William Lake, Esq.  
Erin McGrath, Esq.  
Louis Peraertz, Esq.  
Roger Sherman, Esq.  
Howard Symons, Esq.