

February 25, 2016

Mr. Thomas Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Proceeding Nos. 07-294 and 10-234

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

As a long-time, now retired, board member of the Public Broadcast Foundation of Northwest Ohio (WGTE television and radio, noncommercial educational stations), I find the FCC's proposal to require personal information for board members to be unnecessary, burdensome, an invasion of privacy, and counterproductive.

I served on WGTE's Community Advisory board from 1992 to 1999, when I joined the Foundation's board of directors, a seat I held until retiring in 2011. My wife and I have been long-time supporters of public broadcasting, including working as volunteers for the station in the 1970s and 1980s.

Board members of public broadcast stations have no financial ownership of the stations (except for the sweat equity and contributions we make). The regulation would serve no useful purpose and frankly, I would not have served, and probably would not have contributed if such a requirement were in force when I was asked to join the board. Though I have not discussed this issue specifically with other current or former board members, I know several who I believe share my feelings on this matter.

We all sign the annual conflicts of interest and character disclosures, and that should give the FCC sufficient comfort level as to the integrity of board members.

What does the agency hope to accomplish – short of stifling the interest (and contributions) of qualified and well-meaning persons who can add myriad experience to operations of the stations involved?

I suggest the FCC rethink this proposal before the financial support and managerial talent dries up and the public broadcast stations suffer an even worse fate than they have in recent years.

You may call me at 419-861-7377 if you or a staff member would like to discuss this further.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Dawson