



February 29, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Communication, MB Docket Nos. 15-216, 13-249 and 10-71; PS Docket No. 15-94; and GN Docket No. 12-268

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, February 25, more than 60 radio and television broadcasters, as well as the heads of several state broadcast associations, collectively representing more than 40 states,¹ met with Commissioner Pai and his legal advisor, Matthew Berry; Commissioner O’Rielly and his legal advisor, Robin Colwell; Jessica Almond of the Office of Chairman Wheeler; Holly Saurer of the Office of Commissioner Clyburn; and Marc Paul and Johanna Thomas of the Office of Commissioner Rosenworcel. In the five separate meetings, the broadcasters explained what broadcasting means today; how, with the decline of newspapers, local TV and radio stations have become an even more indispensable element of local communities; and why, 82 years after passage of the Communications Act, the Commission must not lose sight of its charge to promote a healthy, productive and innovative local broadcast system that serves the American people.

We are extremely grateful to the Commissioners and staff that met with us. No doubt these meetings were far different from most meetings with industry representatives. While we discussed various policy issues critical to broadcaster interests – including retransmission consent, AM revitalization, pirate radio, the forthcoming incentive auction and subsequent repack of TV stations – we also detailed the various ways broadcasting serves local communities today. Commissioners and staff heard stories of broadcaster service from every corner of the country. They heard about stations tackling the heroin epidemic on the local level, about a TV broadcaster in upstate New York helping uncover a major and potentially deadly water contamination issue in a local town, and about how, time and again, when they are needed, America’s broadcasters find their most essential voice when emergencies and disaster strike.

¹ A list of broadcaster participants appears at Attachment A.

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The American broadcasting system is the best in the world. Broadcasters intend to do their part to keep it that way. The broadcasters in attendance emphasized that they hope the Commission – as it does with the broadband industries – will do the same.

Our thanks, again, to all the Commissioners and staff that made our trip to Washington worthwhile.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin L. Dozier', written in a cursive style.

Erin L. Dozier
Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel
Legal and Regulatory Affairs

On behalf of Broadcaster Participants (see Attachment A)

cc: Chairman Wheeler, Commissioner Clyburn, Commissioner Rosenworcel,
Commissioner Pai, Commissioner O’Rielly, Jessica Almond, Holly Saurer, Marc Paul,
Johanna Thomas, Matthew Berry, Robin Colwell

Attachment A
Broadcaster Participants

Elena Palombo	Michigan Assoc. of Broadcasters
David Donovan	NY State Broadcasters Assoc.
Suzanne Goucher	Maine Assoc. of Broadcasters
Jim Du Bois	Minnesota Broadcasters Assoc.
Patricia McRae	KHQ, Inc., Cowles Media Montana, Washington State Assoc. of Broadcasters
Karla Hooten	Mississippi Assoc. of Broadcasters
Wally Babbidge	WXXV-TV
Rick Peters	Alabama Broadcasters Assoc.
Joseph Brannan	PMB Media
Bob Houghton	Georgia Assoc. of Broadcasters
Scott Flick	Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman
Ed Brouder	New Hampshire Assoc. of Broadcasters
Mary Beth Sewald	Nevada Broadcasters Assoc.
Bob Singer	KTVZ-TV, Vice-Chair, Oregon Assoc. of Broadcasters
Henry G. Lackey	Kentucky Broadcasters Assoc.
Justin Sasso	Colorado Broadcasters Assoc.
Evan Pappas	KOAA-TV
Vance Harrison	Oklahoma Assoc. of Broadcasters
Ramon Pineda	Univision
Kevin Schrader	KCRG-TV/Gray Television
Mary Margaret Nelms	Sinclair Broadcasting/WCIV/WMMP TV
Margaret Wallace	SC Broadcasters Association
Coby Cooper	Nexstar, WCIA-TV/WCIX-TV
Dennis Lyle	Illinois Broadcasters Assoc.
Charles Marshall	Brooks Pierce
Richard Dyer	WLWT-TV, OAB chair
Christine Merritt	Ohio Assoc. of Broadcasters
Suzanne Goucher	Maine Assoc. of Broadcasters
Joe Berry	California Assoc. of Broadcasters
Michelle Vetterkind	Wisconsin Broadcasters Assoc.
Michael Ryan	Conn. Broadcasters Assoc.
Tracey Rogers	Raycom Media/WMC-TV, TN Assoc. of Broadcasters
Klarn DePalma	Meredith Corporation
Roger Bare	KIAH-TV
Araceli De Leon	NBC Telemundo
Jon Saunders	Cordillera Communications
Dewey Bruce	Montana Broadcasters Association
Michele Zabriskie	Utah Broadcasters Assoc.

Broadcaster Participants (cont'd)

Richard Dautre Jones	Nexstar KTVX/KUCW
Sandy Breland	Raycom Media
Polly Prince Johnson	Louisiana Assoc. of Broadcasters
Jeff Block	KGTV-TV/KZSD-TV
Phyllis Kihara	KIKU-TV Honolulu
Steve Baboulis	Hubbard WNYT
Sarah Smith	KMBC TV (Hearst)
Monte Loos	South Dakota Broadcasters Assoc.
Matt McCormick	Fletcher Heald & Hildreth
Scott Flick	Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman
Scott Chorski	WKBT-TV
Tom McAuliffe II	WMRC-AM
Craig Eckert	Platte River Radio, Inc.
Kelly Radandt	Woodward Radio Group
Kathy Browne	CBS Radio
Sulma Avenancio	Univision
Dennis Switzer	KKTY AM/FM
Bob Connell	KFFB Radio
Mary Ann Armijo	iHeart
Larry Newton	Boise State University Public Radio
Dave Crooks	DCL Media
Michael Mallace	Sierra H Broadcasting
Bob Call	Bonneville
Dick Harlow	Dick Broadcasting Co.
Bob McAllan	Press Communications
Leonard Wheeler	Mel Wheeler Broadcasting
Chuck Carver	Choice 102 Radio
Sue Keenom	National Association of Broadcasters
Adam Sandler	National Association of Broadcasters
Erin Dozier	National Association of Broadcasters
Larry Walke	National Association of Broadcasters
Scott Goodwin	National Association of Broadcasters
Emmy Parsons	National Association of Broadcasters
Chanae Fowler	National Association of Broadcasters