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March 24, 2016

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

Re: WC Docket No. 11-42; MB Docket No. 14-50

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 23, 2016, Wade Henderson, President & CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights met with Chairman Tom Wheeler; also attending the meeting were Gigi B. Sohn, Counselor to the Chairman, Corrine Yu, Managing Policy Director of the Leadership Conference, and Cheryl Leanza, Co-Chair of its Media and Telecommunications Task Force and Policy Advisor to the United Church of Christ, OC Inc.

Mr. Henderson praised the Commission for its proposed expansion of the Lifeline program to support broadband for low-income people and its goals to safeguard the individuals participating in the program while working to ensure they receive the highest quality services possible. We encouraged the Chairman to slightly modify the proposal in order to protect the low-income people who would not benefit from the program if they could not afford to purchase services that meet the program's minimum standards, even after accounting for the Lifeline subsidy.

The primary topic of conversation was a letter sent to Mr. Wheeler by Mr. Henderson discussing the lack of diversity in broadcast ownership.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, as outlined in the letter, Mr. Henderson emphasized to the Chairman that the Federal Communications Commission must comply with its long-standing legal obligation to ensure diversity on our nation's airwaves, and its particular need to do so in light of the likely impact of the forthcoming incentive auction. He urged the Chairman to take a leadership role in ensuring the Commission collect high-quality data and conduct appropriate studies to support Commission action in this regard. We also highlighted briefly some of the important issues identified in the letter that the Commission must address in the Quadrennial Review in order to avoid harm to diversity in the short term and to the Commission's diversity obligation in the long term.

Sincerely,

  
Cheryl A. Leanza

<sup>1</sup> Letter from Wade Henderson and Nancy Zirkin to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, MB Docket 14-50 (filed March 22, 2016) available at: <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001548414>