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May 30, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: *Ex Parte* Letter
MB Docket No. 02-277, MM Docket No. 01-235,
MM Docket No. 01-317, MM Docket No. 00-244

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to the Commission's *ex parte* rules, please find attached a copy of the *ex parte* letter sent to Commissioner Adelstein on May 30, 2003 from Barry Faber, Vice President and General Counsel for Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Tony Lin
Counsel for Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.

Enclosure

Document #: 1328488 v.1

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP

BARRY M. FABER
Vice President/General Counsel
Direct Dial (410) 568-1524
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May 30, 2003

By Telecopy

The Honorable Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20504

**Re: Ex Parte Response to May 28, 2003 Letter from
C. Richard D'Amato
MB Docket No. 02-277, MM Docket No. 01-235,
MM Docket No. 01-317, MM Docket No. 00-244**

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

On behalf of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. ("Sinclair"), this is to respond to the ex parte letter dated May 27, 2003 from C. Richard D'Amato to Chairman Powell. Although the letter contained certain derogatory remarks concerning Sinclair, it was not served upon Sinclair and we thank you for bringing the letter to our attention.

Mr. D'Amato has complained about certain on-air reports that a subsidiary of Sinclair ran concerning his military record. Sinclair stands behind the allegations contained in its on-air reporting that Mr. D'Amato, at that time a publicly elected official running for reelection, misrepresented his military record. We disagree with Mr. D'Amato's statement that Sinclair was ever "provided full Navy documentation that [the] allegations were false." In fact, Sinclair's reports were supported by documentation obtained from the Department of Defense pursuant to Freedom of Information requests.* In addition, although it is true that a Sinclair employee provided information regarding the allegations against Mr. D'Amato to local newspapers, Mr. D'Amato engages in

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*Tellingly, after Sinclair commenced its investigation of Mr. D'Amato's claims to have won certain military medals and awards, Mr. D'Amato's website was revised to remove such claims.

Commissioner Adelstein
May 30, 2003
Page 2

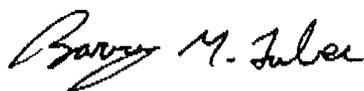
hyperbole in alleging that Sinclair "engaged in lobbying efforts to convince the newspapers to print the allegations."

No doubt the vast majority of public figures who are the subject of investigative reports harbor ill feelings toward the media outlet which conducted such an investigation. That Mr. D'Amato should feel this way is not surprising. What would be surprising, however, is if, Mr. D'Amato's unsupported allegations were viewed as providing any probative evidence whatsoever in the multiple ownership rulemaking proceeding.

The record with respect to this rulemaking includes an enormous amount of clearly reasoned and factually supported comments. Numerous third-party economic studies were prepared, not only at the request of the Commission, but also under the auspices of certain of the commentators. Several public hearings were held by the Commission, as well as by individual Commissioners, and Congressional hearings have taken place. In the face of the extensive record that has been compiled, a single letter containing unsubstantiated, anecdotal allegations from a clearly biased individual should in no way form the basis for the decision that the Commission reaches.

In closing, we hope that you and the other Commissioners will resist the urge to reach conclusions based on the emotional, unsupported opinions of an individual such as Mr. D'Amato, who not only has an axe to grind, but who has also misrepresented the relevant facts in his letter to Chairman Powell. We hope that you will understand that it is important to preserve investigative journalism and that the reports we aired were the essence of a democratic society. The decision that is reached concerning the multiple ownership rules should be based not on emotion and conjecture, but rather on the factual record that has been provided.

Sincerely yours,



Barry M. Faber
Vice President/General Counsel

BMF:emw

cc: C. Richard D'Amato
Ken Ferree, Chief of Media Bureau
Paul Gallant, Special Advisor to Media Bureau
Susan M. Eid, Legal Advisor to Chairman Powell
Stacy Robinson, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Abernathy
Jordan Goldstein, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps
Catherine Bohigian, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Martin
Johanna Mikes, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein