

NCLR

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

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The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

There has been much attention in the last several weeks on the pending merger between Univision and the Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation (HBC). The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights organization, rarely takes positions on corporate mergers; when we have done so, we have usually filed in opposition, often in proceedings before the Commission.

That being said, we have examined the arguments in favor of and in opposition to this merger. Several charges have been made against the merger, and Univision specifically, that we believe are either inaccurate or invalid. Other concerns have been raised about the further concentration of media ownership which have merit. The issue of media consolidation and its impact of diversity is of great concern to NCLR. However, we also believe that it would be unfair to single out this merger in light of the fact that all of Univision's English-language competitors are media conglomerates, making it increasingly difficult for Spanish-language media to compete in this arena. Moreover, we are heartened by the initiatives undertaken and commitments made by Univision to bolster its news and public affairs programming and its U.S.-based content production, including a recent *Telenovela* produced in Los Angeles. In light of these developments, NCLR would not have any objection to proceeding with this merger.

Univision and HBC have stated on many occasions that a merged company would enhance their ability to serve the needs of their Hispanic audience. We concur that this is a most worthy goal and believe they should given the opportunity to make this hope a reality.

Sincerely,


Raul Yzaguirre
President and CEO



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LA RAZA: The Hispanic People of the New World