August 1, 2003

Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 8-B201
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Currently pending before the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") is an application for the merger of Univision Communications Inc. and Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation (HBC). The application was filed more than one year ago and I strongly urge the Commission to issue its decision.

In 2000, the FCC implemented a 180-day merger timetable "to ensure that even the most complex transactions are processed in 180 days..." While some extension of the 180-day period may be understandable and reasonable in some cases, this merger review has now taken twice as long. The time is past due for the FCC to issue a decision.

I am concerned that this merger is being treated differently from other mergers that the FCC has reviewed in the past. For example, the FCC has reviewed and approved far larger media mergers involving companies such as CBS and Viacom, and NBC and Telemundo, in less than 165 days.

Regardless of how you rule, I believe that any further delay in issuing a decision on the Univision-HBC merger is unfair to the public, the parties, and their employees.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

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