The Federal Communications Commission has consistently maintained that fostering competition in the media marketplace is of utmost importance. Although I disagree with the Commission’s actions on cross-ownership and market concentration, there is a pending merger that meets the goal of better competition and stability.

Specifically, the proposed merger of Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation (HBC), a Dallas-based radio company operating since 1949, with Univision Communications, Inc. will lead to increased competition in Spanish-formatted media. HBC is exclusively a radio company whose ownership holdings represent less than one-half of one percent of the entire radio market in the United States. Univision is a television company that owns less than three percent of all TV stations in the country. Combined, these companies would represent less than 13 percent of the total number of U.S. broadcast stations carrying Spanish-language programming.

The merger complies with all FCC rules, both before and after the June 2 vote, and would require no waivers. These companies are simply seeking to merge so they can compete with their English-language counterparts. However, despite the FCC’s commitment to review and grant merger transactions within 180 days, the Univision/HBC merger application is still pending at the Commission after more than 300 days. Because the proposed merger of Univision and HBC would have been allowed under the old, more onerous, rules, it certainly falls well below the cross-media limits adopted on June 2. As such, I trust the Commission is working toward a swift resolution of this matter.

I appreciate your consideration of my concerns and hope you will keep me informed of any actions the Commission takes on this application.

Sincerely,

Kay Bailey Hutchison