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Congress of the United States
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August 8, 2003

SEP 2 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

MB
Merger - HBC
PU
MKP
235
MB Decret No. 02-235

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room B-B201
Washington, D.C. 20554-0001

Dear The Honorable Powell:

As both a seven-term Democratic Congressman representing the Bronx and a Hispanic, I have long championed issues important to the Hispanic community. I therefore feel compelled to write to you regarding the pending merger between Univision Communications Inc. and Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation

I am proud of the growth of the Hispanic community and the significant contributions the community has made to our country, and I fully support efforts to better serve this population. Given my experience and knowledge of Univision and HBC, I believe that the proposed merger would benefit Hispanics nationwide and would continue the great strides that Univision and HBC have made towards placing Spanish-language media on par with larger, English-language media companies. Granting the proposed merger would allow Univision and HBC to combine their resources to better compete for viewers, listeners, and advertisers in the same manner that Viacom/Infinity, ABC/Disney, NBC/Telemundo, and others have done. Ultimately, I am confident that the merged company will continue to expand opportunities for Hispanic viewers and listeners

I am therefore alarmed by the efforts of some to segregate by regulation those broadcast stations that choose to serve Hispanic audiences. Subjecting stations which serve a particular ethnic, racial, religious, or gender group to disparate regulatory treatment is offensive to all Americans. The idea of creating a "separate but unequal" category of Spanish-formatted stations is one that I wholeheartedly oppose.

In reviewing this transaction, the FCC should apply the same rules that it applies to any other merger. Those who call upon the FCC to proclaim Hispanics a "separate market" and to apply a different set of rules to broadcasters that choose to format their stations to serve this audience espouse a poor and morally indefensible policy. Hispanic viewers and listeners deserve better.

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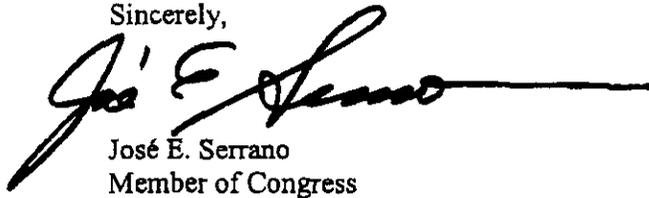
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Those who would deny Univision and HBC this opportunity to improve their service to the public and to compete effectively with English-language media conglomerates do so at the expense of all Hispanics

Given that this merger has received more scrutiny than most mergers reviewed by the FCC including AOL/TimeWarner, NBC/Telemundo and others, and since the FCC's self-imposed 180 merger review time line has long passed, I urge the Commission to proceed with a decision on this transaction

Please include this letter in the public record of your deliberations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "José E. Serrano", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

JES:kdd