

*Before the*  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Broadcast Localism	)	MM Docket No. 04-233
	)	

To: The Commission and Chief, Media Bureau:

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE COMMENTS  
OF  
MEDIA ACCESS PROJECT, THE NEW  
AMERICA FOUNDATION, THE INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC  
REPRESENTATION, U.S. PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP,  
FREE PRESS, THE CENTER FOR CREATIVE VOICES IN MEDIA,  
CENTER FOR DIGITAL DEMOCRACY, ALLIANCE FOR BETTER  
CAMPAIGNS, THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION OF THE UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC., AND THE  
UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

The above captioned organizations (collectively “Public Interest Commenters”), concur in the request for extension of time sought by the National Association of Broadcasters. Public Interest Commenters would also find it difficult, even with maximum effort, to draft complete responses to the questions posed in the NOI by the Commission’s September 1, 2004 deadline. Public Interest Commenters request the Commission delay the comment deadline to November 1, 2004, a 61-day extension.

This short extension of time will allow members of the public to participate fully in this docket. The Commission issued this Notice of Inquiry (NOI) to engage the public in dialogue about the state of local service by licensees, having failed to do so in the ownership proceeding where more than 2 million members of the public first raised these concerns. Given the lack of significant media coverage, the Commission cannot expect

members of the public to find out about this proceeding and file meaningful comments in a mere two months.

Furthermore, even more than the NAB, Public Interest Commenters undertaking this effort have significant limits on their resources that prevent them from responding by the deadline. Many parties interested in participating have numerous other proceedings, as well as long-planned vacations, and other obligations occupying their summer schedules.

The Commission has waited 11 months to issue the promised NOI. During this lengthy delay, Public Interest Commenters have expressed concern at the Commission's laggard pace in confronting the issues now under consideration in the NOI. But the Commission should not make up for its own tardiness by denying the public a genuine opportunity to respond to the NOI. A short delay of two months will not prejudice this proceeding, and will encourage developed responses that will serve the interests of informed decision-making.

WHEREFORE, Public Interest Commentors request that the Commission extend the deadline to file comments in the above-captioned docket to November 1, 2004, and extend the reply comments deadline to December 1, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Feld  
Media Access Project  
1625 K St., NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 232-4300

July 21, 2004  
Legal Intern:  
Audrey Priolo