



Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

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Wade J. Henderson

July 27, 2007

The Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), the nation's oldest, largest, and most diverse civil and human rights coalition, we are writing to urge you to delay final action on the Consolidated Application submitted by Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. ("Sirius") and XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. ("XM"). The purpose of the delay would be to allow additional time for more public comment on the impact of the proposed merger on diversity in the control and programming of the nation's limited satellite radio market. The civil rights community has long regarded diversity in radio and television as an important goal because of the significant role the media plays in creating a more equitable and just society.

Just last month, the LCCR conducted a national town hall meeting on the importance of diversity in media ownership, "Why Media Diversity Matters." We felt it was important to highlight the issue of media diversity for the civil rights community and the nation because of what is really at stake: equal opportunity and equal access to important local and national information and resources. The unanimous conclusion of participants in the June 29, 2007 town hall meeting, which is available for viewing at LCCR's web site, www.civilrights.org, was that the FCC is not doing an adequate job of identifying and working to eliminate the barriers to participation of women and minorities in radio and television.

While LCCR's position on media ownership is well-established, we have not taken a position on the proposed Sirius-XM merger. However, several member organizations within the LCCR have taken positions both in favor and in opposition, while other groups believe there is insufficient information to make a final decision. We believe we can continue to play a useful role in informing and educating our member organizations about these issues, just as we did with our June 29 town hall meeting. Delaying a final decision on the merger would provide an opportunity to look at its potential impact on ownership, employment, and minority-focused satellite radio programming and create a full record on these issues. This information would be critical to the public's full understanding of this important development.

"Equality In a Free, Plural, Democratic Society"

Hubert H. Humphrey Civil Rights Award Dinner • May 10, 2007



We thank you for considering our views, and look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Zirkin at 202/263-2880 or Corrine Yu, Director of Special Projects, 202/466-5670, regarding this or any issue.

Sincerely,

Wade Henderson
President & CEO

Nancy Zirkin
Vice President / Director of Public Policy

Mark Lloyd
Chair, Media/Telecommunications Task Force

Cc: FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps
FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
FCC Commissioner Robert M. McDowell