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September 4, 2007

FILED/ACCEPTED

SEP 17 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Re: Application for Authority to Transfer Control of XM Radio Inc. and Sirius
Satellite Radio Inc., MB Docket No. 07-57

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed merger of XM Radio Inc. and Sirius Satellite Radio Inc., which is currently under your review in MB Docket No. 07-57. The proposed merger should be considered in the context of a broad market definition, which includes the entire marketplace for audio entertainment. Under such an appropriate definition, the merger would combine only a small percentage of the market, but would lead to significant pro-consumer benefits. I, therefore, believe the merger is in the public interest and urge that the Commission approve it.

The relevant market for competition purposes is the entire marketplace for audio entertainment, including terrestrial radio, Internet radio and Internet-protocol enabled applications. The relevant market clearly includes all of terrestrial radio, as evidenced by repeated statements by leading broadcast companies that they are in competition with satellite radio. The strong opposition of the NAB to the merger lends credence to the reality that terrestrial and satellite radio are in direct competition.

The relevant market also includes Internet radio and both Internet-based streams and Internet delivered downloads of music.

In that large, highly competitive market, satellite radio is a small player. In a Fall 2006 Arbitron survey, satellite radio listening accounted for only 3.4% of all radio listening. That same survey showed that satellite radio listeners are avid listeners to terrestrial radio. In fact, satellite radio listeners listen to XM or Sirius for 10.75 hours weekly while they listen to terrestrial radio more, for an average total of 14 hours weekly. They listen to Internet radio 8.25 hours weekly.

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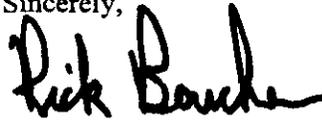
These figures clearly show that satellite radio is in competition with terrestrial radio, that people who listen to satellite radio interchange their listening patterns among various radio sources and that satellite radio listeners are listening to terrestrial radio more than twice as much as they listen to satellite radio. Not only do listeners treat the market as unified among satellite, terrestrial and Internet radio, they prefer terrestrial radio to either of the other mediums.

With respect to consumer benefits, both companies maintain separate entertainment offerings at the present time. The merger would extend to consumers larger choices from among those program offerings. The companies recently announced that they will offer a total of eight program packages post-merger, including several options that will enable consumers to select channels on an a la carte basis. Moreover, the extra bandwidth which the elimination of duplication would produce will result in the offering of more public interest programming than either company now offers. The combined company will be able to expand diverse programs for underserved interests, such as for foreign language and religious programming.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to complete its review of this transaction and allow the two companies to proceed with their merger plans.

Thanking you for your consideration of these comments, I remain with kind personal regards

Sincerely,



Rick Boucher
Member of Congress

RB/jas

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