

**PETE SESSIONS**

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September 27, 2009

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

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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:

Recently, Sirius and XM announced detailed plans for a variety of new programming packages that the combined company will offer to consumers once its pending merger is approved by the FCC and the Department of Justice. Among these new offerings are two packages that, for the first time in subscription entertainment, will enable consumers to pick programming on an a la carte basis.

In addition to the two a la carte packages, the new offerings will include several packages geared toward consumers with specific programming interests. For example, a combined Sirius/XM plans to offer a "Mostly Music" package, a "News, Sports & Talk" package, and two "Family Friendly" packages that exclude adult-themed content. In addition, some of the new offerings will include "best of" programming from both Sirius and XM, giving consumers the opportunity to receive the most appealing channels from both providers without having to subscribe to, and pay separately for, two services.

This unprecedented array of offerings greatly will expand consumer choice and will give satellite radio subscribers the chance to achieve substantial savings. Indeed, one of the new a la carte packages will be offered at \$6.99 per month—a savings of 46 percent over the existing standard monthly price of \$12.95. Importantly, these new options also will mean that consumers will not have to receive or pay for content that they do not want. Perhaps most impressively, the new a la carte offerings will pave the way for a unique form of competition in the entertainment industry—one based on the individual programming preferences of listeners.

As the companies have made clear, however, these innovative offerings will be possible only if the merger is approved. Without the efficiencies and synergies that will be generated by the merger, these new options simply will not be feasible.

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In order to bring these exciting opportunities to consumers as quickly as possible, I urge the FCC to move forward with its review of this pending merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Sessions", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress