



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:

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January 24, 2008

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW), an organization representing over four million African-American women worldwide and dedicated to championing civil rights and equality for all people, I must convey to the FCC and you the Council's strong and considered concern that the proposed transaction between Sirius Satellite Radio and XM Satellite Radio Holdings poses a clear, present and unmitigated threat to decency and greater diversity of media ownership.

One only has to evaluate the current programming now offered by Sirius and XM to recognize that our concerns and fears are well founded. Programming such as Howard Stern, Opie and Anthony, and Bubba the Love Sponge-which help to perpetuate racist and sexist stereotypes in our culture-drive the business of both companies. A Sirius - XM satellite radio monopoly will focus its resources on only its most profitable audiences, with more of the same lowest-common-denominator programming of the Howard Stern variety. Yet the audiences of those shows do not reflect the broader spectrum of the American listening public. It is imperative that satellite radio exists for all of the public, and not simply to put profits in the pockets of the combined Sirius and XM.

We petition the FCC, which is responsible for serving and protecting the public interest with respect to the media, not to hand complete programming determination and control over to combined Sirius and XM. The public must have choices over what programs it can listen to over the federally licensed satellite spectrum and these choices must include robust family-friendly programming.

In monitoring the proposed Sirius – XM transaction before the FCC, we are aware that a modified structure, as proposed by Georgetown Partners, would ensure that a meaningful number of channels remain outside the programming control of a single Sirius – XM

Founder: Mary McLeod Bethune

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Affiliated with: National Council of Women of the United States  
International Council of Women/National Assembly for Social Policy & Development  
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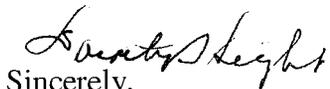
entity, providing the American public with a true choice in satellite radio programming and bringing minority ownership to the satellite radio marketplace. Moreover, as the FCC has been informed, Georgetown Partners' proposed alternative structure would ensure that at least one competitor in the satellite radio market would be dedicated to providing the American public with robust and positive family-friendly programming.

In achieving the triple imperatives of programming decency, diversity of programming and diversity of ownership in the satellite radio market, Georgetown's proposal offers a bright future for this critically important medium that stands in stark contrast to the "at risk" position promised by the Sirius - XM combination as currently proposed by the companies.

No industry has had a greater influence on family life, our culture and our social dialogue than the mass media. NCNW knows first hand the importance and significance of improving family life, a vital part of community life. For almost twenty-five (25) years, NCNW has worked to develop what has been acclaimed as the most significant family movement in the country, called the Black Family Reunion, which focuses on the value traditions and historic strengths of the family. Some twenty (20) million people have gathered in cities across the country in celebrating and participating in activities to build on historic strengths and educational achievements in the Black family.

Satellite radio's impact on family life is magnified by virtue of the fact that it is only completely national broadcasting medium. Satellite radio clearly is the future of this powerful medium. Mr. Chairman, at this juncture, you face the last opportunity to protect the standards of decency, the variety of choice and the diversity of ownership in satellite radio.

I urge you and your fellow commissioners to give the Georgetown Partners proposal full consideration as you aim to serve the interests of the public good, including the good of all those who care about family-friendly programming and diversity in media ownership.



Sincerely,

Dorothy I. Height

Chair and President Emerita

National Council of Negro Women, Inc.