



Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
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Dear Chairman Martin:

I represent The National Caucus and Center on Black Aged Inc., an organization devoted to improving the quality of life for elderly African-Americans and low income minorities. The purpose of this letter is to express my concerns and those of our members regarding the proposed transaction between Sirius Satellite Radio and XM Satellite Radio Holdings. We are especially troubled by the implications the merger presents for the media industry with respect to the important issues of diversity of content, diversity of ownership and cost.

In the twentieth century, the proliferation and expansion of media had a profound impact on American society. With new and better ways of broadcasting and receiving content, we saw information become almost fully democratized. However, during this time one thing did not change – the fact that African-Americans and other minorities had been and continue to be woefully underrepresented in the industry. We have made great strides, but we have not come close to where we should be.

From the outset of the twenty-first century, we saw immediately the impact new media had and would continue to have on our society. Satellite radio is a prime example of such influential technology. It is a growing industry and increasingly important, especially with respect to its influence on the social consciousness of America. It is also the only completely national radio broadcast medium with a reach and ability to influence that far surpasses traditional radio stations. For that reason alone, we should be mindful of the obstacles to diversity that we have seen in other media as we consider its future.

The proposed Sirius-XM transaction currently under review by the Commission would take the only two satellite radio operators and merge them into one – creating a sole operator, with complete discretion as to its content, agenda and cost. This causes serious concerns on many fronts. For minority communities, it means a further consolidation in the media industry. But further still, for satellite radio in particular, this segment will be as consolidated as it can be, with a full monopoly offering no alternatives or room for expanded representation of ownership or of content.

*Improving the
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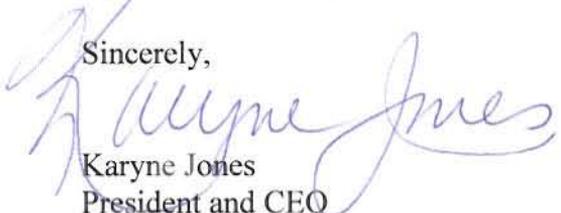
For many low income communities and elderly citizens on fixed incomes cost is a central issue. Allowing the merged company to have complete control over pricing could ultimately make satellite radio service entirely unaffordable and completely inaccessible for entire groups of Americans, particularly those living on fixed incomes.

We understand that a proposal by minority-controlled private equity firm, Georgetown Partners, squarely resolves the problems at the heart of this issue. The firm's proposal represents a viable means for minority communities to be assured that they have an alternative and a much needed voice in this important and growing medium. It creates a viable competitor in the marketplace, and as a minority-owned entity, it helps to spread more equitably the representation of satellite radio broadcasting. It also serves as an alternative offering free ad-supported content for those who cannot afford expensive subscription services – the only such option available in this important and growing medium today. In short, the Georgetown proposal provides competition to the proposed merged new company and introduces much needed diversity in the media market while simultaneously expanding the reach of satellite radio to those who, for whatever reasons, cannot afford the subscription fees required by the current companies.

I applaud your tenacity and the steps you are taking to bring about a review of the Federal Communications Commission's rules regarding diversity of ownership in certain mainstream media. The Commission now has a perfect opportunity now to head off some of the challenges we have seen in other media by addressing these very issues in satellite radio.

We hope that you and the Commission will include the Georgetown Partners proposal when you consider the Sirius-XM transaction and its impact on the public good, especially the good of those groups who have and continue to work to be more equitably represented in many parts of our society.

Sincerely,



Karyne Jones

President and CEO

National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc.