



Minority Media & Telecommunications Council
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February 11, 2008

Hon. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

RE: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, MB Docket No. 06-121 (Media Ownership)

This reports on a February 7, 2008 meeting with Commissioner Michael Copps and his Legal Advisor, Scott Deutchman, attended by the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. Kimberly Marcus and Butch Wing (Rainbow/PUSH Coalition), Mark Lloyd (Leadership Conference on Civil Rights), Manny Mirabal (Hispanic Technology and Telecom Partnership) and myself. We held the meeting to express our opposition, shared by nearly all of the national civil rights organizations and minority programmers, to a la carte mandates for cable and satellite programming. Rev. Jackson and I explained that multicultural and multilingual programmers largely rely on channel surfing to build audiences. Under a la carte, viewers would seldom purchase channels they've had no chance to experience. As a practical matter, then, a la carte would effectively kill off many existing multicultural channels and prevent the creation of new ones.

When asked by the commissioner about program suppliers' bundling of less-desired channels with must-have channels, I responded that the Commission has no current data on which channels are affected, or on the impact of this practice on minority, multicultural or multilingual channels. The Commission often makes media ownership decisions without good data, and it shouldn't revise current commercial arrangements until it's examined the impact of these arrangements on diversity.

On another matter, also responsive to a question from the commissioner, Mr. Mirabal expressed HTTP's support for must-carry for Class A LPTV stations as a means of advancing minority ownership and ensuring the survival of many Spanish language LPTV stations. We understand that this subject will be taken up in an NPRM shortly. It is also to be incorporated in a Third Further NPRM in Docket 06-121 (per Commission vote December 18, 2007).

Sincerely,

David Honig

David Honig
Executive Director