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VIA EMAIL AND ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Attached for consideration in connection with the above-referenced merger of XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. and Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. please find an editorial by Tim DuBois and Butch Spyridon featured in the June 15, 2008 edition of The Tennessean entitled "Satellite radio unity, Music City would benefit from merger of Sirius, XM."

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, and the Commission's Public Notice dated March 29, 2007 (DA 07-1435), a copy of this letter with the attached article is being filed in the docket via ECFS.

Respectfully,

/s/ Robert L. Pettit

Robert L. Pettit

cc (via email): Chairman Martin, Commissioner Copps, Commissioner Adelstein, Commissioner Tate, Commissioner McDowell, Daniel Gonzalez, Catherine Bohigian, Monica Desai, Roy Stewart, Rosemary Harold, Rebekah Goodheart, Helen Domenici, Aaron Goldberger, Elizabeth Andron, Rick Chessen, Bruce Gottlieb, Rudy Brioché, Renee Crittendon, Chris Moore, Amy Blankenship, Angela E. Giancarlo, Cristina Chou Pauzé

THE TENNESSEAN

Satellite radio unity

Music City would benefit from merger of Sirius, XM

By Tim DuBois and Butch Spyridon

15 June 2008

Tennessee Voices

The proposed merger of XM and Sirius will be good for consumers, musicians and artists throughout the music industry, and especially good for Nashville.

In an era of shrinking radio playlists, it's harder and harder for new artists and smaller labels to get played on AM and FM radio, and there is far less airplay for the many different genres of country music, whether outlaw, Americana, bluegrass or traditional. This makes satellite radio, with its remarkable programming diversity, vitally important for country music; it creates countless opportunities for Nashville musicians to reach fans from coast to coast.

XM has nine channels dedicated to country music; Sirius has five. These channels, combined with a lineup of original programming such as George Strait's Strait Country or interview performance series Artist Confidential on XM, have given countless hours of airplay for Nashville-based musicians, and created new fans who never otherwise would have been exposed to those artists.

Satellite radio pays artists

Satellite radio has also put money directly into the hands of Nashville-based musicians and labels. While traditional AM and FM don't pay a dime in performance royalties, satellite radio is the largest single contributor of performance royalties to artists and record labels, having created an entirely new revenue source for the music industry.

Satellite radio has made a major commitment to Nashville. XM has established a strong presence, building new studios in Sommet Center's arena tower. This facility enables XM to originate its country programming directly from the city and to offer more performances and interviews to country fans.

In addition, XM airs exclusive coverage of the CMA Music Festival, broadcasting live performances every day for a week.

This kind of enhanced exposure is exactly what artists promoting their careers need and want.

Entertainment market evolving

Unfortunately, the current economics of the satellite industry threaten continuing benefits that both artists and listeners have enjoyed. The two satellite radio companies have invested billions of dollars to build their businesses and still don't make a profit. In fact, both companies have lost billions as they compete in a fast-moving and dynamic audio entertainment market that includes iPods, HD radio, Internet radio and wireless streaming.

The merger of the two companies is necessary if satellite radio is to continue as a vital outlet for the discovery, enjoyment and promotion of all the music made in Nashville. The merger would create a stronger, single-satellite company, one that would be able to turn a profit and continue investing in the artists that make the music industry a key part of the heart and soul of Nashville.

And the merger would be a great deal for consumers, allowing the merged company to offer lower-priced package options enabling customers to enjoy satellite radio at a lower cost than is now possible. Additionally, the merger will give XM subscribers the ability to access programming that's now only available to subscribers of Sirius, and vice versa.

In an age of shrinking airplay for Nashville's music on AM and FM, declining CD sales and a challenging economy, the merger is a must. It's more important than ever for the Federal Communications Commission to allow XM and Sirius to grow into one company that can survive and prosper, providing the promotional opportunities and performance royalties that sustain the careers of so many of us in the country music industry here in Tennessee.