



Oregon Public Broadcasting  
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June 26, 2008

The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Tate:

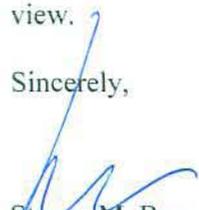
I'm writing to express the concerns of OPB and the public radio community about the proposed merger of XM Satellite Radio (XM) and Sirius Satellite Radio (Sirius). The public radio community remains steadfast in its opposition to the proposed XM-Sirius merger. We believe that allowing the creation of a monopolistic provider of satellite radio services will negatively impact the local public services provided by terrestrial public radio stations, and would do the opposite of what the Commission is attempting to do through its recent "localism" initiatives. It would create a national monopoly that provides no locally-based services whatsoever (as local radio stations aren't carried), as well as threaten the work of stations for which service to local communities is our primary mission.

Chief among our concerns is that the merger would put in the hands of a monopoly an unacceptably large amount control over the type of reception technology available to consumers. Car companies own a significant share of XM and receive a percentage of revenue for satellite subscriptions. This creates powerful incentives to avoid alternatives – such as terrestrial HD radio – that will compete with satellite radio. Through monopoly power, we believe that it would be possible and even likely for a satellite monopoly to dictate to receiver manufacturers what technology will and will not be included in receivers.

As you know, public radio stations are at the forefront of the roll out of terrestrial HD radio technology. Today, more than 380 public radio stations are broadcasting in digital and 300 more stations will soon be on the air. Our investments, with considerable help from Congress, total millions of dollars in this next generation of broadcasting, which is threatened by this merger.

Promoting competition, fostering innovation, and improving service to local communities should be at the forefront of this critical decision-making process. Thanks for your consideration of my point of view.

Sincerely,

  
Steven M. Bass  
President and CEO

cc: Ms. Marlene Dortch (for inclusion in MB Docket 07-57)