

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing regarding a request pending before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) involving Entravision Holdings, LLC (Entravision). Entravision has applied for permission to relocate WJAL, its station in Hagerstown, Maryland to Silver Spring. I share Entravision's belief that such a move will benefit the Washington Metropolitan Area's (Metro) growing Latino population by addressing its need for a second full-service Spanish-language over-the-air broadcast station.

It is my understanding that since 2002, Entravision has been communicating to the FCC that recent demographic shifts in Maryland make the relocation of WJAL from Hagerstown to Silver Spring a matter of public interest. Those reports were supported by the results of the 2010 Census which showed that the Latino population in Montgomery and Prince Georges counties has grown dramatically. Despite that growth, the Metro area remains the only area of its kind with just a single Spanish-language over-the-air station.

According to Latino groups and elected officials in Maryland, Latinos, unlike other population groups, rely heavily on over-the-air television for entertainment programming, news, sports, public affairs, and for public information. Entravision, which is a prominent Spanish-language broadcaster, has long operated Class A Television Station WMDO-CA in the Metro area, where it broadcasts the programming of the Telefutera Spanish-language network. However, that station's broadcast signal has limited power and cannot be fully accessed over-the-air in the homes of my constituents in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. Should WJAL be allowed to relocate to Silver Spring, Entravision has pledged to provide Spanish-language service, with its attendant news, sports, public affairs, and public information components, throughout the Metro area.

The Metro area's Latino residents deserve more than one over-the-air source for their Spanish-language news and entertainment. Entravision is offering to provide that service by relocating WJAL to Silver Spring. I support such a move and look forward to discussing the matter with you in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

August 4, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1707 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of an Application for Review that was filed with the Commission by Entravision Holdings, LLC, licensee of WJAL(TV), Hagerstown, Maryland, concerning its request to change the community of license for WJAL.

In 2004, the Commission's Media Bureau affirmed a prior decision to dismiss the Entravision petition for rulemaking seeking to change the community of license of WJAL's digital television (DTV) channel 16 from Hagerstown to Silver Spring, Maryland. The Media Bureau based its dismissal primarily on the grounds that the proposed relocation would cause substantial interference to public safety and emergency operations on channel 17 in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The Bureau also determined that the proposal would result in a significant curtailment of existing television service to the Hagerstown area. Entravision filed an Application for Review requesting that the Bureau's decision be reviewed by the full Commission.

In 2006, Entravision filed a supplement to its Application for Review, which indicated that the company had changed its DTV election for WJAL to channel 39, thereby addressing the public safety concerns. By that time, however, the Commission had stopped considering certain proposed license modifications, including community of license changes, in order to ensure a stable database for conducting the DTV channel election process and the development of a new DTV Table of Allotments. With the completion of the DTV transition, the staff has resumed consideration of matters, such as Entravision's Application for Review, that were held in abeyance pending the DTV transition.

I appreciate learning of your interest in this important matter. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski", written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski