

MASSACHUSETTS
40 main st, suite 301
florence, ma 01062
tel 413.585.1533
fax 413.585.8904

WASHINGTON
501 third street nw, suite 875
washington, dc 20001
tel 202.265.1490
fax 202.265.1489



October 14, 2011

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Via Electronic Filing

**Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentations in:
*Standardized and Enhanced Disclosure Requirements for Television Broadcast
Licensee Public Interest Obligations, MB Dkt. 00-168
Examination of the Future of Media and Information Needs of Communities in a
Digital Age, GN Dkt 10-25***

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Pursuant to section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, Free Press, on behalf of the Public Interest Public Airwaves Coalition, submits this notice regarding three *ex parte* communications in the above referenced dockets.

On October 12, 2011, Angela Campbell, Blake Reid and Jeff Camhi of the Georgetown Institute for Public Representation, Andrew Jay Schwartzman of Media Access Project, Meredith McGehee of the Campaign Legal Center, Tom Glaisyer of the New America Foundation, and Corie Wright of Free Press met with Dave Grimaldi, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Mignon Clyburn.

In the meeting, the public interest groups expressed optimism regarding the broadcast disclosure item tentatively slated for the Commission's October 27th open meeting.¹ The public interest groups laid out the lengthy history of the FCC's enhanced disclosure proceeding. That proceeding, which is over a decade old, has generated a thorough record supporting the public's need for better data on the amount of local news, government affairs, and electoral programming that broadcasters provide to local communities. The groups explained that the public has waited too long already for meaningful access to this information and that the disclosure item currently under consideration should not needlessly delay FCC adoption of such measures.

To that end, the groups described how the findings and goals laid out in the recent FCC staff report on the Information Needs of Communities,² coupled with the extensive record already generated in the existing enhanced disclosure docket, provide a strong basis for

¹ "FCC Announces Tentative Agenda for October Open Meeting," Public Notice (Oct. 6, 2011) available at http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db1006/DOC-310258A1.doc.

² *The Information Needs of Communities*, FCC Staff Report, GN Dkt 10-25 (June 9, 2011).

prompt replacement of broadcasters' existing issues/programs lists with improved program reporting obligations, as well as the online posting of broadcasters' public files, including their political files.

The groups further discussed their own August 2011 proposal to modernize broadcaster reporting and public file access and demonstrated the sample online form that accompanied that proposal.³ The groups emphasized the need for the FCC to explore and develop a disclosure database that could provide the public and researchers with searchable and downloadable access to standardized information on the types of programming broadcasters are airing to serve their local communities of license.

Later that day, Ms. Wright spoke via telephone with Joshua Cinelli, Media Advisor to Commissioner Michael Copps. Ms. Wright repeated the arguments laid out above.

Finally, on October 13, 2011, Cheryl Leanza of the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc., Ms. Campbell, and Ms. Wright met with Bill Lake, Media Bureau Chief, and Media Bureau Attorney Advisors Michelle Carey and Holly Saurer. In that meeting, the groups restated the points made to Mr. Grimaldi and Mr. Cinelli in the previous meetings and reiterated their support for prompt adoption of a modernized and improved broadcaster reporting and public file system.

In accordance with the Commission's rules, this *ex parte* notice is being filed electronically in the above referenced docket. If you have any questions regarding this filing please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully
submitted,
_____/s/_____

Corie Wright
Free Press,
Washington, D.C.
202-265-1490
cwright@freepress

Cc:
Dave Grimaldi
Joshua Cinelli
Bill Lake
Michelle Carey
Holly Saurer

³Letter to Chairman Julius Genachowski from the Public Interest Public Airwaves Coalition, MM Dkt 00-168, GN Dkt 10-25, (filed Aug. 4, 2011), available at <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7021700424>; see also <http://www.savethenews.org/sample-form> for a demonstration of the proposed online form