

CHARLES E. SCHUMER
NEW YORK

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 2, 2012

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

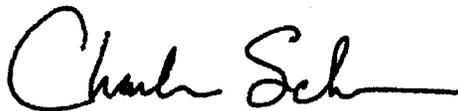
Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Investment in the United States not only creates opportunities for American businesses and entrepreneurs, but also attracts jobs and benefits our economy. As such, the Communications Act of 1934 gives the Federal Communications Commission the authority to review and approve indirect foreign investments exceeding 25 percent in broadcast, telephone, and wireless licensees. The Commission's current practice is to consider applications for telephone and wireless licensees involving foreign investment above the 25 percent threshold on a case-by-case basis in order to determine if such investments would satisfy the public interest. Consequently, foreign investment in the telecommunications sector has helped create well-paying jobs, promoted competition, benefitted consumers, and added to our country's economic growth. However, the Commission's current policy is not to permit any foreign investment exceeding 25 percent in broadcast licensees. I urge the Commission to revisit this practice, and consider foreign investments in broadcast licensees on a case-by-case basis as well.

I am not advocating a blanket grant of foreign investments in broadcast licensees; I believe individual review of each potential investment is necessary to avoid any potential national security concerns and ensure that the public interest is served by the proposed investment. Accordingly, I recommend that any such foreign investments be subject to a national security review, similar to the reviews established for foreign investments in telephone and wireless licensees. Additionally, I believe that a strict application of the public interest test will ensure that broadcasters continue to represent a diversity of viewpoints and remain free from propaganda.

I appreciate your consideration of this important matter and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

MB 13-50

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