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8TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

COMMITTEES:
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REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL,
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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC

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July 8, 2014

716

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

Please accept this letter in support of Black Television News Channel's (BTNC) application (MB DOCKET NO. 14-77) before the FCC to facilitate a public-private partnership between Florida A&M University and BTNC.

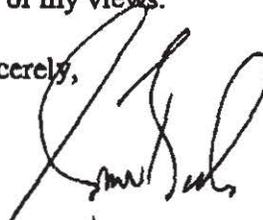
The partnership is designed to bring 14 hours per day of news, informational and educational programming targeted to an underserved minority audience. The network would foster greater understanding of the social, economic and other challenges faced by minority populations. Additionally, the partnership would provide an excellent opportunity for students at Florida A&M to gain real world experience through internships and other educational programs.

It is my understanding that in order to launch this project the partnership will need to temporarily operate in the Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) public interest space for the first three years as a nonprofit entity. The network will need to sell a limited amount of advertising to offset the high cost of producing original news content daily.

As you know, the purpose of the DBS public interest set-aside is to promote a diverse array of informational and educational programming. To this end, I believe that the FCC would be serving the public interest mandate by approving this application.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress

STB/bl



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2014

The Honorable Spencer Bachus
U.S. House of Representatives
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bachus:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Black Television News Channel's ("BTNC") waiver request. Your views will be taken into consideration, and your letter will be entered into the record for this proceeding.

As you are aware, Congress has imposed certain requirements on Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) carriers, including the requirement to reserve a percentage of channel capacity for noncommercial educational or informational programming. Commission rules currently require four percent of a DBS carrier's channel capacity to be reserved exclusively for noncommercial programming of an educational or informational nature.

As you note, BTNC recently filed a request for a three-year waiver from this requirement. On May 15, 2014, the Media Bureau released a Public Notice requesting comments on BTNC's waiver request. The comment periods have closed, and the Media Bureau has started its review of the record.

I hope this information is helpful, and I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler