



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boxer,

Thank you for your letter regarding a June 2004 draft of an FCC staff working paper that examined the impact of local television station ownership on local news coverage.

As I indicated at the hearing, I was not Chairman at the time that this report was drafted. I had not seen – nor was I aware of – this draft report before you brought it to my attention. No one on my staff had seen this report nor were they aware of it.

I am not aware of any other commissioners, past or present, who knew of the report.

It is unclear why this report was never released to the public. I am attempting to determine why, but the senior management of the Media Bureau and the Chairman of the Commission at the time are no longer at the Commission.

In the meantime, the report appears to cover issues relevant to both our open localism proceeding and our recently commenced media ownership proceeding. Accordingly, we included it in the record for both of those proceedings on Tuesday. This made the report publicly available on our website through the Electronic Comment Filing System. Also on Tuesday, we emailed the report widely to members of the media.

If I may be of further assistance with this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Martin