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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**1356**

Re: MB Docket No. 10-56

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As the only Hispanic serving in the United States Senate, I write to encourage a timely review, within the applicable laws, rules, and regulations, of Comcast and General Electric's (GE) proposed NBC Universal (NBCU) joint venture. Although a thorough review is necessary, I believe that the potential opportunities for minority media ownership through this transaction could be beneficial to the public, including Hispanic Americans in this country.

It is my understanding that Comcast and NBCU made substantial commitments to the Hispanic community in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was negotiated after much hard work with leading Hispanic civic and community leaders. This unprecedented MOU includes commitments in the areas of Board governance, employment, procurement, philanthropy, and programming that will create opportunities in all areas of the business. Specifically, their commitment to increasing media ownership and expanding business opportunities for minority programmers is to be commended. In particular, I laud the announcement that Comcast will add independently-owned and operated cable networks with substantial Latino ownership interests, expand carriage of existing Latino-owned channels and establish an external Hispanic Advisory Council, as well as diversity councils representing other communities, to advise on these initiatives moving forward.

Moreover, Comcast, General Electric, and NBCU have a strong presence in New Jersey and invest significantly in my state's economic growth. Collectively, these companies contribute more than 7,500 good-paying jobs and over \$750 million in annual payroll and benefits to the state. Comcast alone reports more than 4,700 employees, and 186 facilities, offices and call centers in New Jersey. Since 1996, Comcast has invested more than \$3.6 billion in the state's technological and infrastructure development. GE's energy and healthcare businesses have sites in ten major cities throughout the state, and NBCU has over 800 employees among four sites in New Jersey.

The collaborative nature of the Memorandum of Understanding represents the potential positive impact the Comcast/NBCU joint venture could have on all communities, both in New Jersey and across the country, if the transaction is approved. The FCC has the obligation to review the proposed venture and determine whether the public interest benefits outweigh any potential harm. Accordingly, I welcome the FCC's commitment to conduct its review of this transaction expeditiously.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator