

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 7, 2011

**0038**

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners,

We write with regard to the proposed joint venture between Comcast and General Electric for the operation of NBC Universal (NBCU).

We are impressed by your agency's thorough review of the proposed transaction, and we trust that you will conclude that the public interest benefits that will stem from this joint venture are potentially significant to the communications industry and the national economy. Now that you have concluded your review and have circulated an order that would approve the transaction, we respectfully ask that you move to a vote on this order promptly so that all Americans can reap the benefits of this transaction as quickly as possible.

Comcast first announced the proposed transaction on December 3, 2009. At that time, it made a series of public interest commitments intended to ensure that the transaction would deliver meaningful results. These commitments provided a breadth of important assurances -- that free, over-the-air broadcasting would be preserved, that children and diverse communities would benefit from greater programming choices, that all consumers would benefit from more content on more platforms, and that programming diversity (more choices and more voices) would be enhanced. Reports indicate that the companies have built upon these initial commitments in their meetings with you during the review process. We strongly support these positive policy outcomes, coupled with the additional assurances you have secured so that this transaction will advance, not harm, competition.

The Comcast-NBCU transaction has been among the most thoroughly reviewed in media history, with one of the longest public comment periods in the history of your agency, as well as six Congressional hearings and an FCC public forum. Comcast has provided written responses to more than one hundred questions from the FCC and Members of Congress. As a result of this intense and exhaustive public scrutiny, the FCC has amassed a substantial record, offering all potential stakeholders the opportunity to be heard. We also note that there has been a huge outpouring of support for the transaction from community groups, leaders of minority organizations, independent producers and programmers, public officials, and many others.

The American people have waited for more than a year for the benefits of this transaction to come to fruition. We believe further delay would be harmful and unnecessary. This must not continue – it is time for a decision.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Handwritten signature of Robert P. Casey, Jr. in blue ink.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senate

Handwritten signature of Patrick Toomey in blue ink.

Patrick Toomey  
United States Senate