

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing regarding a request pending before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) involving Entravision Holdings, LLC (Entravision). Entravision has applied for permission to relocate WJAL, its station in Hagerstown, Maryland to Silver Spring. I share Entravision's belief that such a move will benefit the Washington Metropolitan Area's (Metro) growing Latino population by addressing its need for a second full-service Spanish-language over-the-air broadcast station.

It is my understanding that since 2002, Entravision has been communicating to the FCC that recent demographic shifts in Maryland make the relocation of WJAL from Hagerstown to Silver Spring a matter of public interest. Those reports were supported by the results of the 2010 Census which showed that the Latino population in Montgomery and Prince Georges counties has grown dramatically. Despite that growth, the Metro area remains the only area of its kind with just a single Spanish-language over-the-air station.

According to Latino groups and elected officials in Maryland, Latinos, unlike other population groups, rely heavily on over-the-air television for entertainment programming, news, sports, public affairs, and for public information. Entravision, which is a prominent Spanish-language broadcaster, has long operated Class A Television Station WMDO-CA in the Metro area, where it broadcasts the programming of the Telefutera Spanish-language network. However, that station's broadcast signal has limited power and cannot be fully accessed over-the-air in the homes of my constituents in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. Should WJAL be allowed to relocate to Silver Spring, Entravision has pledged to provide Spanish-language service, with its attendant news, sports, public affairs, and public information components, throughout the Metro area.

The Metro area's Latino residents deserve more than one over-the-air source for their Spanish-language news and entertainment. Entravision is offering to provide that service by relocating WJAL to Silver Spring. I support such a move and look forward to discussing the matter with you in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

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