

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2012

0462

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

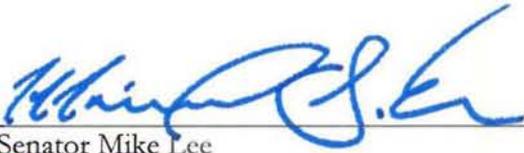
We are aware the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) may soon vote on a proposal to increase regulation on television broadcasters by requiring them to post their political records online. As we understand it, your proposal would require broadcast television licensees to upload hundreds of thousands of documents containing commercially sensitive data, including advertising rate information, to a database centrally managed and monitored by the Commission. We are writing to express our serious concerns with your proposal.

To create accountability to their local audiences in exchange for being granted free use of spectrum, broadcasters have been required by statute for more than 40 years to maintain and make available to the public an inspection file, including correspondence from the public, hiring practices, and programming of local interest. These files give a general sense of how broadcasters are serving their communities of license. In 2002, the political record requirement, more related to campaign spending transparency than localism, was added to the public inspection file mandate.

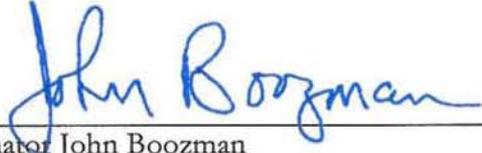
Your proposal appears to be excessive and unnecessary in light of the fact that all of this information is made available today at broadcast stations across the country. The transfer of these files to an online database does not appear to enhance localism or provide benefits to justify the regulatory and competitive costs likely to result from the effort. In fact, the FCC exempted political files from online posting requirements in 2007 because it found the burdens outweighed the benefits.

Given these issues along with the heavy compliance costs that would have to be borne by the broadcasters and the limited benefit that would be realized, we ask that you reconsider this proposal and maintain the rules as currently constituted.

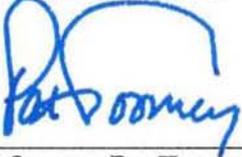
Sincerely,



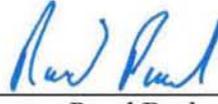
Senator Mike Lee



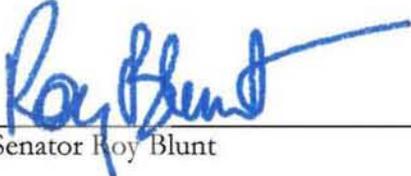
Senator John Boozman



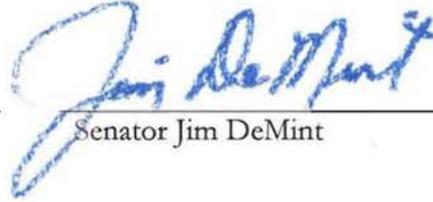
Senator Pat Toomey



Senator Rand Paul



Senator Roy Blunt



Senator Jim DeMint