

COMMITTEES: BUDGET Ranking Member JUDICIARY ARMED SERVICES ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

November 15, 2012

1403

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

Application for Review Re:

> Down Home Broadcasting DWCOX (AM) Camden, Alabama (FIN: 17480) File Nos. BR-20120726AFY and BLSTA-201200726AFO DWYVC (FM) Camden, Alabama (FIN: 17481) File Nos. BRH-20120726AFR and BLSTA-20120726AFL

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is my understanding that you recently received an application for review from Down Home Broadcasting of Camden, Alabama regarding the renewal of the FCC licenses for WCOX (AM) and WYVC (FM). These radio stations are important to the community, and I hope that you and the Commission will give the application for review its due consideration.

Both WCOX and WYVC play an important role in the community, which has suffered from a weak economy and chronic high unemployment over the past decade. The stations provide Camden, a small town in rural Alabama with approximately 2,000 residents, and the surrounding area with important programming for the rural, and predominately elderly, community. The town is currently home to only one non-commercial station, and the nearest commercial station is located in Pine Hill, Alabama, approximately 20 miles away. The loss of these stations will decrease the community's access to local news and programming and may impact the local economy, currently suffering from an unemployment rate of 17.8 percent.

Having grown up near Camden, I am familiar with these primarily African-American radio stations that provide many rural residents with their local news and religious programming. The renewal applications appear to have been delayed due to oversight by counsel. This situation is particularly unfortunate since Rev. Neolin Craig, the owner of Down Home Broadcasting, made a significant investment in new equipment for the stations in early 2012. It is my understanding that Rev. Craig has hired new counsel and submitted an application for review to renew the licenses and continue operating.

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I appreciate the Commission's attention to this matter and hope you give Down Home Broadcasting's application a fair and thoughtful review and, if possible, accelerate the granting of these station licenses.

Very truly yours,

COHS Jeff Sessions

United States Senator

CC: Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner Ajit Pai, Commissioner

JS: cm