



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

April 22, 2013

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable John D. Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

Thank you for your recent letter on the pending broadcast ownership quadrennial review. I appreciate hearing your views about these important issues before the Commission. As the Commission conducts its review, promoting diversity of ownership is one of a small number of particularly critical goals, along with guarding against excessive media consolidation, enabling robust local news for all communities, and fostering economic growth and opportunity.

The growth of the Internet is changing the media landscape, including the economics of local newspapers and broadcasters. At the same time, while broadband adoption is increasing, tens of millions of Americans do not yet have ready access to news and other content available on the Internet, and changes in ownership rules may have different effects on those with or without Internet access.

With this in mind, earlier in the Commission's review of its broadcast ownership rules, I circulated a draft order for my colleagues' consideration that would primarily preserve existing ownership rules while proposing steps to promote media diversity and modest reforms that could help strengthen local journalism. I proposed to (1) keep the bulk of existing broadcast ownership rules in place, including the rules limiting the number of TV and radio stations that can be co-owned in any market, and the rules prohibiting ownership of more than one major broadcast network; (2) provide various diversity-promoting broadcast opportunities for small businesses and proceed with studies to determine whether additional measures can be taken in the next quadrennial review to promote minority ownership; (3) retain the rule prohibiting TV-newspaper combinations, while providing greater transparency and predictability on waivers, in a way that would strengthen the bar against major TV station-newspaper combinations, and reduce the bar to smaller TV station-newspaper combinations in the top 20 markets; and (4) remove the bar on cross-ownership of radio stations and newspapers. Circulation of the proposed order has led to healthy discussions among Commissioners and stakeholders about the substance of the issues and the state of the record before the agency.

The Minority Media and Telecommunications Council informed us that their study would be conveyed soon, after which MMTC suggests that the agency solicit public input, to be followed by a Commission vote. In this heavily-litigated area where a strong record is particularly important, I believe this is a sensible approach to moving forward. Also, as you

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suggest, the study addresses an issue of importance, will augment the record, and will assist the Commission in resolving the issues before it on the full record.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julius Genachowski