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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2002

March 26, 2014

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The Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20054

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I was recently contacted by a constituent business, Sinclair Broadcast Group, concerning the Report & Order regarding joint sales agreements between broadcast television stations, as well as the Public Notice released by the FCC's Media Bureau on March 12, 2014, regarding the processing of broadcast television applications proposing sharing arrangements and contingent interests. It is my understanding that the FCC plans to vote during its March 2014 meeting on proposed rule changes pertaining to joint sales agreements and how they are used to calculate television station ownership.

We believe such regulations, if enacted outside of a larger media ownership proceeding or legislative process, could harm diversity, localism and competition, not only for Sinclair Broadcasting Group, but for other broadcasting corporations across the country. Accordingly, I would ask that you consider the principles outlined in this letter before your meeting in March so that Sinclair Broadcasting group and other broadcasting corporations have a firm and fair understanding of the rules and regulatory processes in place at the FCC.

Firstly, any changes to rules regarding sharing arrangements should be made either in the context of a larger FCC media ownership proceeding that would provide stakeholders with an opportunity to participate and respond, or by legislative process.

Secondly, existing transactions already approved by the FCC, should properly be grandfathered by any prospective rules. Retroactive application of rules to transactions entered into in full compliance with laws, and already approved by the government, is unfair to businesses.

Finally, transactions already entered into and awaiting approval of the FCC, and made in reliance on existing laws and regulations, should be approved on the basis of existing rules, and not future rules. Companies are entitled to rely on rules, and once again the application of future regulations is inconsistent with our notions of rule of law.

I appreciate your review of my concerns as they relate to Sinclair Broadcasting's pending application, and I look forward to your prompt response. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Tara Oursler, Chief of Staff, at 410-628-2701.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress