



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

September 26, 2014

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Issa:

On July 28, 2014, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *FCC Should Review the Effects of Broadcaster Agreements on Its Media Policy Goals*, GAO-14-558. The Report recommends that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) determine whether it needs to collect additional data to understand the prevalence and context of broadcaster agreements between television stations. The Report also recommends that the FCC evaluate whether broadcaster agreements affect the media policy goals of competition, localism, and diversity. My staff has carefully reviewed the Report and proposals provided therein. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. Section 720, I am submitting this statement on actions the FCC has taken on those recommendations.

The FCC already has taken steps to carry out the recommendations of the GAO Report. On April 15, 2014, the FCC released a *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that started the 2014 Quadrennial Review of media ownership rules. The item proposed defining a category of sharing agreements and requiring their disclosure. The FCC made this proposal as a means to enable a better understanding of the terms, operation, and prevalence of sharing agreements between television stations. Disclosure would allow the FCC, and the public, to review these agreements and assess better the impact of such arrangements on the FCC's rules and policy goals.

While the record for the 2014 Quadrennial Review is being developed, the FCC will continue to consider broadcaster agreements, in appropriate cases, in deciding whether approval of particular proposed transactions will serve the public interest.

In summary, the FCC and its staff appreciate GAO's analysis and recommendations and have begun to implement them. Should you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler

cc: The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV



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September 26, 2014

The Honorable Tom Coburn
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

On July 28, 2014, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *FCC Should Review the Effects of Broadcaster Agreements on Its Media Policy Goals*, GAO-14-558. The Report recommends that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) determine whether it needs to collect additional data to understand the prevalence and context of broadcaster agreements between television stations. The Report also recommends that the FCC evaluate whether broadcaster agreements affect the media policy goals of competition, localism, and diversity. My staff has carefully reviewed the Report and proposals provided therein. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. Section 720, I am submitting this statement on actions the FCC has taken on those recommendations.

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September 26, 2014

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Carper:

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Tom Wheeler

cc: The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV



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September 26, 2014

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cummings:

On July 28, 2014, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *FCC Should Review the Effects of Broadcaster Agreements on Its Media Policy Goals*, GAO-14-558. The Report recommends that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) determine whether it needs to collect additional data to understand the prevalence and context of broadcaster agreements between television stations. The Report also recommends that the FCC evaluate whether broadcaster agreements affect the media policy goals of competition, localism, and diversity. My staff has carefully reviewed the Report and proposals provided therein. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. Section 720, I am submitting this statement on actions the FCC has taken on those recommendations.

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