

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

November 5, 2014

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The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

It has come to our attention that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has received two Applications for Review calling into question the Media Bureau's decision to renew the license of New Jersey broadcast station, WWOR-TV. We hope you will swiftly evaluate the concerns outlined and reconsider the decision in light of the many claims raised by stakeholders.

For years, the people of New Jersey, public interest groups, and New Jersey's community leaders have called on the FCC to ensure this station, which utilizes public airwaves, serves its legal obligation to provide local news and information to our communities. In 1982, WWOR-TV¹ relocated from New York to Secaucus, New Jersey, explicitly in order to renew its television license under Section 331 of the Communications Act of 1934, which states the FCC shall allocate a television frequency license to a state that does not have one. Thus, when the FCC granted this license, it was expected that the station would serve the special needs of Northern New Jersey. To this day, the station has not met its obligation to fulfill these original programming requirements, yet has been able to continue its operations. The shortcomings of this station have persisted for decades, and it is troubling that that despite years of insufficient New Jersey-specific programming, the FCC decided to renew the station's license.

Furthermore, the station has been operated in violation of the FCC's own media ownership rules since 2000. The Commission's staff provided a temporary waiver which, unless reversed, allows an otherwise prohibited cross-ownership to take place for many more years to come, undermining the FCC's goal of promoting diversity and localism in the media.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important issue. We urge you to carefully consider the Applications for Review and act expeditiously in your deliberations. We hope your final decision will be consistent and reflect the FCC's longstanding policy goals of diversity, localism, and competition that serve as the cornerstones of American communications policy.

¹ The license holder for WWOR-TV has undergone several transfers and is currently held by Fox.

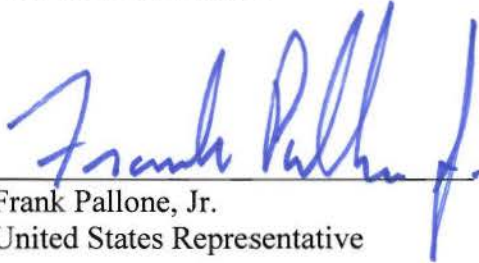
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C.A. B.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Menendez", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Pallone, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Pallone, Jr.
United States Representative