

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

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September 27, 2016


The Honorable Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

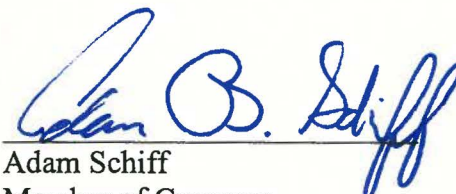
Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We are writing to urge you to continue to advance efforts that support independent, women- and minority-owned cable channels. For 25 years, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has fostered a competitive video distribution landscape that promotes diversity of media voices. However, in that timeframe the video distribution marketplace has undergone significant change that has impacted Multichannel Video Program Distributors (MVPDs). In a rapidly changing media landscape, we must ensure that diverse voices are available to consumers, a significant public policy objective.

We commend the FCC for its recent Notice of Inquiry (NOI) on the Availability of Diverse and Independent Sources of Video Programming and for shedding light on some of the obstacles facing independent, women, and minority owned cable channels. The information collected as a result of the NOI should assist in both identifying and addressing the obstacles faced by independent, women, and minority owned cable channels in the current media market. Upon completion of the NOI, the FCC should consider next steps to address any obstacles, including consideration of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on the issues identified. In the interim, we applaud the FCC for its inquiry into this important issue and urge you to continue to prioritize the inclusion of diverse voices in the television landscape. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

  
Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

  
Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress



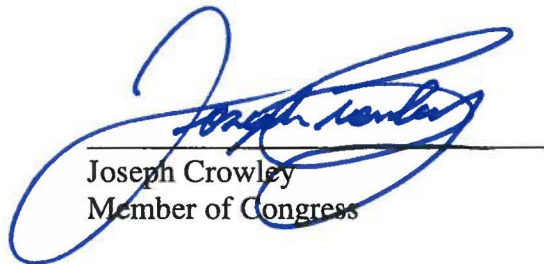
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



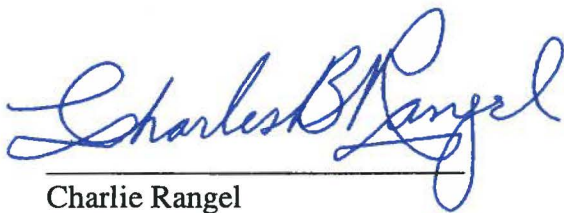
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



Charlie Rangel  
Member of Congress