

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

896

October 25, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

We are writing today regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) decision to bar many television transactions during the pendency of the broadcast incentive auction. Specifically, we are concerned about the possible unintended impacts the moratorium could have in diversity in broadcast ownership. Despite constituting 14% of the total population, African-Americans own approximately 2% of all commercial broadcast licenses in the United States. Additionally, African-Americans face ongoing challenges in accessing private sector funding to fully participate in media ownership.

Bayou City Broadcasting (BCB) is the only African-American broadcaster in the United States to own, operate and manage every aspect of its television stations. The company's success represents tangible progress towards increasing minority ownership in media. BCB is currently in the process of acquiring Fox and NBC affiliates through the divestiture provisions of the Nexstar Broadcasting Group, Inc. and Media General, Inc. merger. With the uncertain timing of the end of the incentive auction, however, it is difficult to determine when this deal may ultimately close.

With this in mind, we strongly urge the Commission give full consideration to the request being filed by Nexstar Broadcasting Group and Media General, Inc. seeking a limited waiver of the auction rules allowing them to close their merger and related transactions prior to the completion of the incentive auction. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future to pursue our shared goals of increasing diversity in broadcasting.

Sincerely,



Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress