



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 3, 2018

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

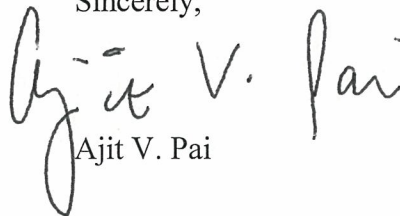
Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your letter sharing your own serious concerns regarding the pending transaction between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media Company.

The evidence the Commission received suggested that certain station divestitures that had been proposed to the FCC would have allowed Sinclair to control those stations in practice, even if not in name, in violation of the law. Accordingly, I circulated a Hearing Designation Order to my colleagues, who unanimously approved it on July 18, 2018. Given the seriousness of the issues presented, the order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the overall proposed Sinclair-Tribune transaction until the issues that are the subject of this order have been resolved.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".
Ajit V. Pai