



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

Thank you for your letter noting press reports of a Department of Justice investigation into certain advertising activities of Sinclair Broadcast Group. On November 13, 2018, the Department of Justice announced that it reached a settlement with six broadcast companies, including Sinclair, to resolve a lawsuit involving these and other advertising activities.¹ The proposed settlement prohibits the direct or indirect sharing of competitively sensitive information, requires them to cooperate in the Department's ongoing investigation, and further requires "rigorous antitrust compliance and reporting measures" to prevent similar conduct in the future.²

As you know, on July 18, 2018, the Commission unanimously approved an order designating for hearing before the Office of the Administrative Law Judge a proposed transaction between Sinclair and Tribune Media Company. The order directs the Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other matters related to the proposed transaction until the issues that are the subject of the order have been resolved by the Administrative Law Judge. Those issues remain pending. The FCC recently approved the appointment of a new Administrative Law Judge to serve in this office. At this time, it would be premature to speculate on what further steps if any the Commission might take with respect to the issues you raise.

Thank you for your continued interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai

¹ Press Release, "Justice Department Requires Six Broadcast Television Companies to Terminate and Refrain from Unlawful Sharing of Competitively Sensitive Information" (Nov. 13, 2018), *available at* <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-requires-six-broadcast-television-companies-terminate-and-refrain-unlawful>.

² *Id.*



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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December 31, 2018

The Honorable Mike Doyle
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doyle:

Thank you for your letter noting press reports of a Department of Justice investigation into certain advertising activities of Sinclair Broadcast Group. On November 13, 2018, the Department of Justice announced that it reached a settlement with six broadcast companies, including Sinclair, to resolve a lawsuit involving these and other advertising activities.³ The proposed settlement prohibits the direct or indirect sharing of competitively sensitive information, requires them to cooperate in the Department's ongoing investigation, and further requires "rigorous antitrust compliance and reporting measures" to prevent similar conduct in the future.⁴

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Ajit V. Pai

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⁴ *Id.*