

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 15, 2022

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The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel  
Chairwoman  
Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street NE  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

Given the important role that television and radio broadcasters play in delivering lifesaving news and public affairs programming to their local communities, we are concerned about the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposal to increase broadcasters' regulatory fees by an astonishing *13 percent* this year.

A 13 percent regulatory fee increase on television and radio broadcasters is disproportionate to the FCC's 2 percent budget increase and to the proposed fee adjustments on other FCC supervised entities, some of whose regulatory fees are *decreasing*. While the FCC acknowledges that its regulatory fees per industry are based on the number of full-time equivalent employees staffed to a particular bureau, the statute requires the FCC to adjust the schedule of regulatory fees to take into account factors that are reasonably related to the benefits provided to the fee payor.

Broadcasters provide a free service to the public and are unable to pass these costs on to their audience. Instead, these fees must come out of operational budgets funded by advertising revenues that have not yet recovered from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, any substantial increase the FCC has proposed will have direct impacts on broadcasters' ability to invest in programming or equipment broadcasters require to provide quality local news and information to their communities. For small broadcasters already operating on shoestring budgets, unjustified fee increases can affect whether they are able to cover certain events or, in some cases, stay on the air.

Considering the harm a substantial fee increase would bring, we would like to better understand the FCC's proposal. To that end, we ask you to respond to the following questions as soon as possible:

- Given the FCC's statutory responsibility to adjust its schedule of regulatory fees to take into account factors that are reasonably related to the benefits provided to the fee payor, could the FCC explain what additional benefits have been provided to broadcasters that would justify such a high fee increase?
- Did the Commission consider the inability of many broadcasters to pass along costs to their audiences?

- Why does the Commission's proposed overall fee increase for broadcasters far exceed fee increases for any other industry?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to continuing to work together to support the essential work that broadcasters perform for their local communities.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



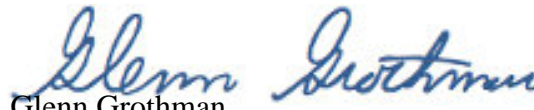
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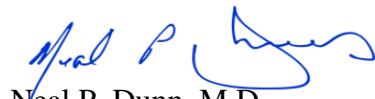
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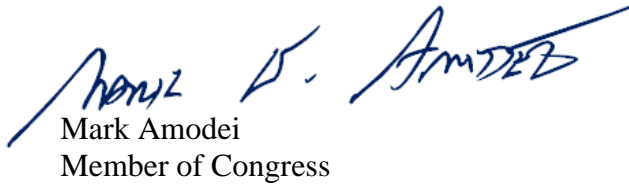
Donald J. Bacon  
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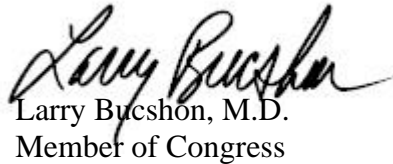
William R. Timmons  
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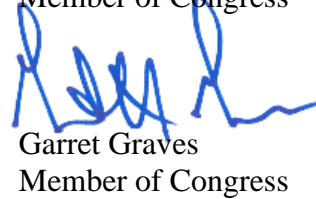
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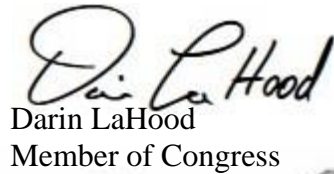
Bob Good  
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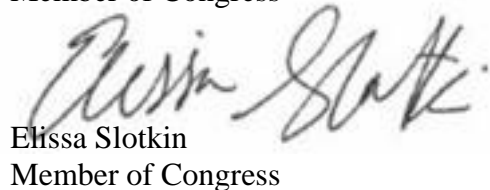
Garret Graves  
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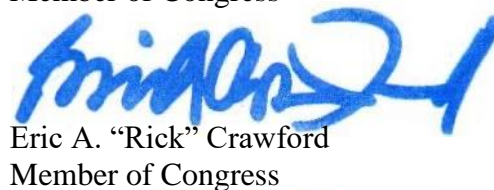
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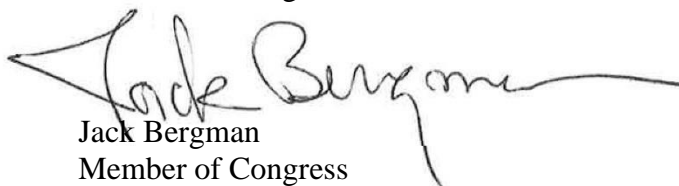
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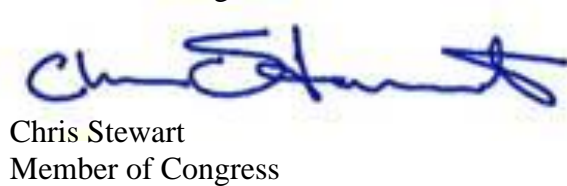
Elissa Slotkin  
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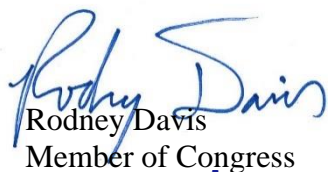
Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
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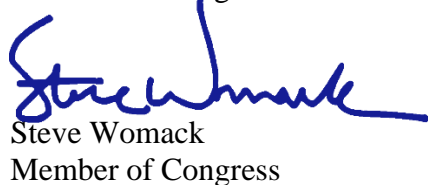
Chris Stewart  
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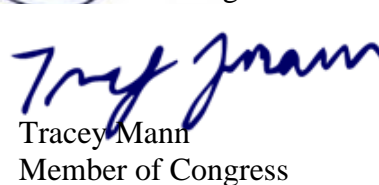
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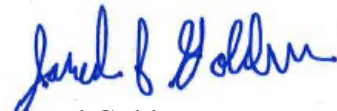
Tracey Mann  
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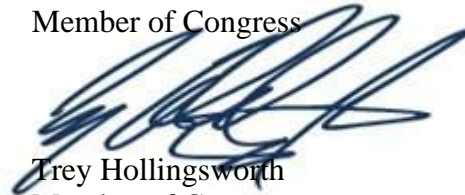
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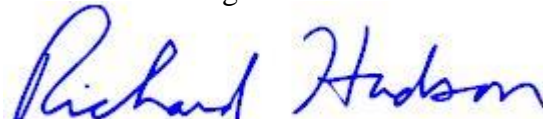
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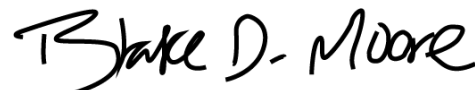
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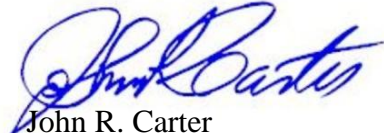
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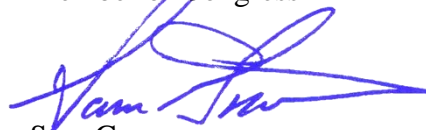
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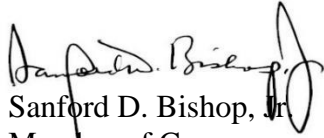
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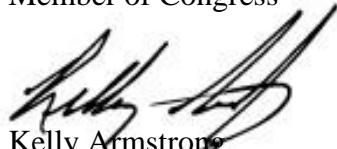
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