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

Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

I write to raise concerns about a proposed merger involving TEGNA Inc., Standard General LP, and Apollo Global Management, Inc. I have heard from workers who are worried that this merger would result in job losses, higher prices for consumers and decline of local journalism. I urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to carefully consider if this proposed transaction truly serves the public interest.

The proposed new owners, in investor documents, expressed that TEGNA's local stations currently have too many employees. Thus, a proposed merger could result in local news jobs being eliminated. Additionally, the proposed owners seem intent on producing news content for its stations in Washington, D.C. rather than locally, which would harm local journalism. The FCC has highlighted in previous mergers their responsibility to regulate spectrum based on the values of local journalism, competition and diversity. I'm concerned this merger could interfere with these values.

I am also concerned with Apollo requesting the FCC to ignore the foreign ownership cap on U.S. licensees and allow funds involved in this transaction to hold up to 100% foreign investment. Our local news should not be controlled by anonymous foreign investors. Unfortunately, our country has already experienced instances where foreign governments or entities have attempted to infiltrate news sources to push a particular political agenda.

I was pleased to see the FCC Media Bureau was requesting further information about the proposed merger, including how it will affect specific plans for local news and any potential layoffs. This request suggests a more thorough review of the concerns raised is needed.

I urge the FCC to fully review all documents and information presented to them regarding this proposed merger.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Kildee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS