

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Jessica Rosenworcel
Chair
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

834

November 1, 2022

Chair Rosenworcel,

Thank you for your work encouraging innovation and competition in the communications space. I write regarding the Standard General-Tegna acquisition and to express my support for furthering diversity in broadcast media. I share your longstanding goal of expanding diverse voices and minority ownership in this sector, and the merger would be a critical step in that direction.

I strongly support your efforts to encourage diverse ownership of minority-owned broadcast stations. As you stated last year, “[W]e have a charge to promote diversity under the Communications Act and we need to honor it. That means it is essential that we identify ways we can encourage more diversity in this market.”

Unfortunately, ownership diversity has been declining for some minority communities. As Commissioner Starks stated last year, “Majority ownership of full power TV stations significantly worsened for Asian American owners (from 9 full power TV stations in 2017 to four stations in 2019). The numbers don’t lie – we must ensure that ownership at broadcast stations better reflects the rich diversity of the communities that they serve. We still have work to do, and we have to do better.”

This is why the Standard General-Tegna acquisition is especially important. If the transaction goes through, Soo Kim, a Korean American naturalized citizen, would be the first Asian American to own and operate a major broadcast station group. Additionally, it is my understanding that if this deal is approved, the new entity would be the largest minority-owned broadcast station group in America today. It would also be managed by a leading female broadcast executive with a history of investing in local news and in her employee base. I understand further that the at least half of the proposed board of directors will be of minority composition and a majority will be women.

In America, we celebrate and encourage minority-owned businesses of all types and we must do the same in the broadcast industry. Understanding that the decision will be made by the FCC on the legal complexities of the case, I believe that this transaction will promote the goals you’ve outlined concerning diversity in the broadcast industry.

I write to urge you to expeditiously review the proposed acquisition in the hopes that your conclusion on the matter may be rendered as soon as possible. Again, thank you for your dedication to diversity in the communications field and I look forward to working with you going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marilyn Strickland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress