

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 13, 2023

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

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Dear Commissioner:

I write in support of Standard General's acquisition of television stations now owned by TEGNA. As you consider this significant transaction, we wish to highlight what we believe is an important factor in its favor: Representation of minorities and people of color among the ownership of today's media industry.

I believe that people of color should have a seat at the table when decisions are made that will affect them. Many private sector companies have taken steps in the right direction on this matter, but much more progress is needed. We believe the FCC should take minority representation and decision-making authority into account about Standard General's ownership of TEGNA. Today's media industry has a huge impact on the American political, economic, and social fabric but people from minority communities account for a tiny percentage of owners and senior executive positions. As the FCC itself has reported, ownership by people of color of television and radio stations in the United States is in the single digits.

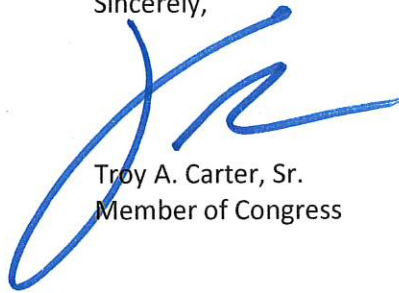
Standard General's purchase of over 60 stations TEGNA owns would be one step toward more equitable representation. The founder and head of Standard General, Soo Kim, is a naturalized U.S. citizen who emigrated from South Korea with his family as a child. His success is testimony to the promise of America as well as a reminder of the age-old struggle to break down racial barriers. Should the FCC approve this proposed transaction, it will enable the establishment of the largest minority-owned media company in the country. A review of the FCC docket shows a range of groups representing minority communities, including Rainbow Push support this business venture. Dr. Ben Chavis, former president of the NAACP and current head of the NNPA - the nation's African American publishers also supports this effort. I believe this transaction is in the public interest and, we see as especially important and urgently needed. In the local TV broadcast sector, Kim's vision would have a profoundly positive impact. Kim's stated approach to local television journalism is to be attentive to the concerns and interests of local audiences and to enable station managers to deliver content accordingly.

Studies have shown that The Black community tends to be slightly more interested in local news and more likely to get their local news from television. With the disappearance of many local newspapers, including those that had long been the voice of Black communities, local television news has become ever more important. It can be a catalyst for engaging and informing minority communities. If there is a chance for someone like Soo Kim to facilitate news coverage that evolves to reflect the change in the local media landscape and demographics, then the FCC should clear the way. We believe it is an imperative.

There are many ways the FCC can support minority media representation. The Standard General-TEGNA merger is a golden opportunity to enable someone who comes from a community of color to continue to achieve success in business while also creating more opportunities to make local television stations more connected to and representative of their viewing audiences, including people of color. I believe this is very much in the public interest, equitable and is urgently needed.

I look forward to the FCC's expeditious approval of this merger and the historic changes it portends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'T' followed by a cursive 'A' and 'Carter, Sr.'.

Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress

Cc: Commissioner Starks