

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

*Re: CBS Radio, Inc.*, File No. EB-06-IH-1109, Order

*Re: Citadel Broadcasting Corporation*, File No. EB-06-IH-1108, Order

*Re: Clear Channel Communications, Inc.*, File Nos. EB-05-IH-0059, EB-05-IH-0144, Order

*Re: Entercom Communications Corp.*, File No. EB-05-IH-0033, Order

Coming to the Commission, as I do, from Nashville, Tennessee – home to more than 80 record labels, 180 recording studios, and some 5,000 working union musicians – I have been particularly concerned by allegations that payola, or “pay for play,” practices are prevalent in the commercial radio industry. I am pleased that, in consideration of the conclusion of our investigation into these allegations, each of the four companies has agreed to make significant contributions to the U.S. Treasury and committed to implement consequential business reforms to ensure full compliance with our rules.

Artists and radio listeners should be even more pleased, however, by the voluntary, private agreement crafted by the companies and the American Association for Independent Music, a trade organization representing the independent music sector. Pursuant to this creative accord, born of good faith negotiations, the companies have agreed in principle to basic guidelines, “rules of the road” covering future interaction between their stations and record labels, which concentrate on equal access and transparency. They have also committed to provide 8,400 half-hour blocks of airtime to independent music, to the benefit of all. I challenge other radio companies to follow their example.