

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: *Revisions to Public Inspection File Requirements – Broadcaster Correspondence File and Cable Principal Headend Location*, MB Docket No. 16-161.

In 1973, a gallon of gas was just under 40 cents, the Oakland Athletics won the World Series, and *Bonanza*, which in the early years, starred one of my favorite small screen personalities, Pernell Roberts, would end its 14 season run with 431 episodes. 1973 also marked the year, the Commission first required commercial radio and television broadcasters to retain letters received from the public, in a public inspection file.

Yes, the world looked very different then, and while not always a justification for changing Commission's rules, a look at the facts suggest that it is time for us to reassess whether the requirement that commercial broadcast stations, retain copies of letters and emails from the public, as part of their public inspection file.

An individual seeking to provide their local broadcaster with written feedback some 40 years ago, basically had one option: to submit a letter in paper form. Today, we can avail ourselves of several platforms, and a social media post on a broadcaster's page can be far more impactful than a letter or an e-mail sent directly to a television or radio station's office.

I remain a firm believer in the power of transparency and disclosure, which is why I have supported recent Commission actions to move the vast majority of the public inspection file online. This makes information more accessible to the general public. At the same time, I am cognizant of the regulatory burdens and the potential privacy concerns associated with posting individual letters and emails online. Today's NPRM, seeks to balance these interests and recognizes that members of the public will continue to have multiple means of communicating their comments or concerns, including direct contact with the FCC as part of a station's license renewal application process. Any renewal challenges made by the public will continue to be available in a station's online file as well as in the Commission's licensing databases.

Similarly, as the Commission reassesses its requirement to maintain a broadcaster correspondence file, I agree that it now makes sense to look at eliminating principal headend information from a cable operator's public inspection file. When was the last time you overheard two friends talking about the location of their cable operator's headend? Unless these individuals work in the communications industries or are incredibly bored, it is unlikely that such a conversation takes place with any regularity. But it is also important to note that for those entities with a legitimate need for headend location information, the NPRM commits to adopting a means for ensuring that this remains available to them.

I would like to thank the Media Bureau for their work on this item as well as their continued focus on finding ways to reduce regulatory burdens without diminishing the public's right to access valuable station information.