

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *In the Matter of Sinclair Broadcast Group*, File No. EB-IHD-16-00021748.

Today's Consent Decree resolves a number of important and outstanding issues. While our decision recognizes that there has been no finding of liability or wrongdoing stemming from Sinclair's attempt to acquire Tribune Media Company, I want to commend the FCC team and Sinclair for working together to bring closure to these issues. After the Commission designated some of these issues for hearing, further evidentiary review showed that Sinclair structured its transaction based on a good-faith interpretation of FCC rules and precedent. So I support our decision today, which promotes the public interest by terminating the FCC investigations.

To be sure, there are some political actors, including in Congress, that have long and repeatedly called for the FCC to go after Sinclair based on those politicians' disagreement with the viewpoints expressed in Sinclair's broadcasts.¹ We don't do that at the FCC—or at least a majority of us do not do that. We reach our decisions based on the facts and the law. So I appreciate the opportunity to vote on this decision.

¹ See, e.g., Letter from Hon. Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator; Hon. Bernie Sanders, U.S. Senator; & Hon. Cory A. Booker, U.S. Senator, to Hon. Ajit V. Pai, Chairman, FCC, & Hon. Makan Delrahim, Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division (June 24, 2019) (seeking review of Sinclair's acquisition of certain sports networks based, in part, on Sinclair's alleged 'conservative-tinged coverage [in] local markets'); Letter from Hon. Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator; Hon. Tom Udall, U.S. Senator; Hon. Patty Murray, U.S. Senator; Hon. Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator; Hon. Ron Wyden, U.S. Senator; Hon. Edward J. Markey, U.S. Senator; Hon. Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Senator; Hon. Tina Smith, U.S. Senator; Hon. Bernie Sanders, U.S. Senator; Hon. Jeffery A. Merkley, U.S. Senator; Hon. Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Senator; & Hon. Cory A. Booker, U.S. Senator; to Hon. Ajit V. Pai, Chairman, FCC (Apr. 11, 2018) (seeking an investigation into Sinclair's fitness to be a broadcast licensee based on objections to Sinclair's "news activities"); see also Katie Benner, *Sinclair under fire for Kerry film*, CNN.com, Oct. 12, 2004 (detailing a letter from 20 Senate Democrats requesting an FCC investigation of Sinclair based on reports it planned to air programming critical of Sen. John Kerry).