Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, September 2, 2015, Jeff Brogan (Vice President & General Manager, WCPO-TV, Cincinnati), Dominic Mancuso (Vice President & General Manager, WOIO-TV/WUAB-TV, Cleveland), Christine Merritt, President, Ohio Association of Broadcasters (“OAB”), Jack Dempsey (Vice President and General Manager, WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA) and Doug Easter, President, Virginia Association of Broadcasters (“VAB”) met with the following officials of the Commission to discuss the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-referenced docket concerning the Commission’s television broadcast program exclusivity rules: Nancy Murphy, Associate Bureau Chief, Media Bureau; Mary Beth Murphy, Division Chief, Policy Division, Media Bureau; Steven Broeckaert, Senior Deputy Division Chief, Policy Division, Media Bureau; Kathy Berthot, Attorney Advisor, Policy Division, Media Bureau.

September 3, 2015
During these meetings, the representatives of the OAB and VAB affirmed their support for retention of the Commission’s network non-duplication and syndicated program exclusivity rules. In support of their position, the representatives of the OAB and VAB discussed, among other things, how the Commission’s program exclusivity rules are part of the Commission’s core statutory mandate to assure a system of local television broadcast service, and how repeal of the exclusivity rules would provide an unfair competitive regulatory advantage to cable television systems that would, in turn, threaten local stations’ ability to provide local programming responsive to the needs of the local communities they are charged to serve.

If you should have any questions in connection with this matter, it is respectfully requested that you communicate with this office.

Very truly yours,

Charles F. Marshall  
*Counsel to the OAB and VAB*

cc: Nancy Murphy  
    Mary Beth Murphy  
    Steven Broeckaert  
    Kathy Berthot