



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

August 19, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed programming and services agreement between the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority (NJBA) and Public Media NJ, Inc. (PMNJ), a non-profit entity established by WNET-DT. While the agreement does not propose to assign the broadcast television licenses from NJBA to WNET, which would require formal review by the Commission, I appreciate this opportunity to address your concerns regarding a potential reduction in New Jersey focused programming on the New Jersey Network (NJN).

Shortly after the state enacted the New Jersey Public Broadcasting System Transfer Act in December 2010, staff of the Commission's Media Bureau met with representatives from the state and its counsel to review potential issues related to the Transfer Act and any intersection with the Communications Act and Commission policies. The Transfer Act established NJN as an independent entity that no longer would receive financial support for its programming from the state of New Jersey.

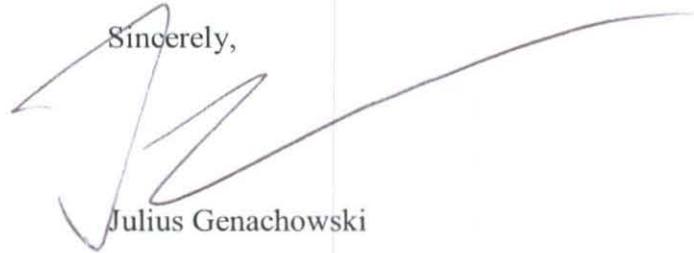
Staff review of the Transfer Act has continued. According to information provided in recent meetings with representatives of the state of New Jersey and WNET, NJBA will retain control over the operation of the stations. Under the programming agreement, PMNJ will provide 20-25 hours per week of New Jersey-related programming for NJN effective July 1, 2011. This programming will include a weekday nightly news and public affairs program, live coverage of the State of the State Address and the annual Budget Message. They also will provide live coverage of New Jersey elections.

NJBA and PMNJ have told staff they will file the programming and services agreement with the Commission. Those documents will be made available to the public, and will be reviewed by the staff. The staff's review will include any comments submitted by the public, including your letter. The staff's informal review will ensure agreement is consistent with Commission rules.

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I appreciate your interest in this important matter. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Genachowski', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Julius Genachowski