

RICHARD E. NEAL
FIRST DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

AT-LARGE WHIP

MAR 25 2014
FCC Mail Room



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

272

March 20, 2014

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-C445
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I understand from press reports that the Commission intends to effectively prohibit joint sales agreements (JSAs) among local television stations. While I certainly support the Commission's goals of competition, localism, and diversity, I write today to encourage you to take a measured approach when reviewing JSAs that were formerly filed with and passed upon by the Commission.

I am aware of the benefits to localism and diversity brought to our communities by LIN Media, which has a station located in my district. They provide local news in both quantity and quality - adding hours of news and investigative teams. I believe LIN has followed the rules. They filed all four of their JSAs with the FCC in long form transactions and made substantial investments in small markets based on the JSAs which were approved in those transactions. This investment has added local content, local jobs, and local opportunities for businesses.

I encourage you to consider grandfathering JSAs that were filed with approved long-form FCC applications and to make that grandfathering transferable. Investments in smaller markets have been made based on the prior FCC grants, and I would hope the Commission would respect those investments in the public interest.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

CC: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly

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