



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

I do want to take the opportunity to provide additional information as you requested in your letter regarding the costs of the study. The initial amount allocated for the Research Design, the Pilot, and other activities related to the test market study was approximately \$467,000. The earlier termination of the contract, the last invoice of which was received on May 9, 2014, resulted in a total payout of \$355,387.

Additionally, as noted above, halting the CIN study means we will have to find other ways to promote diversity in the communications market, and having reliable data on how the markets function and serve the public is essential to our underlying responsibilities in the Communications Act – including our quadrennial review of media ownership rules. I assure you that any such efforts will not overstep our authority or raise any concerns like those expressed about the CIN study.

I hope you find this information helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

I do want to take the opportunity to provide additional information as you requested in your letter regarding the costs of the study. The initial amount allocated for the Research Design, the Pilot, and other activities related to the test market study was approximately \$467,000. The earlier termination of the contract, the last invoice of which was received on May 9, 2014, resulted in a total payout of \$355,387.

Additionally, as noted above, halting the CIN study means we will have to find other ways to promote diversity in the communications market, and having reliable data on how the markets function and serve the public is essential to our underlying responsibilities in the Communications Act – including our quadrennial review of media ownership rules. I assure you that any such efforts will not overstep our authority or raise any concerns like those expressed about the CIN study.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Joe Barton
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barton:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

I do want to take the opportunity to provide additional information as you requested in your letter regarding the costs of the study. The initial amount allocated for the Research Design, the Pilot, and other activities related to the test market study was approximately \$467,000. The earlier termination of the contract, the last invoice of which was received on May 9, 2014, resulted in a total payout of \$355,387.

Additionally, as noted above, halting the CIN study means we will have to find other ways to promote diversity in the communications market, and having reliable data on how the markets function and serve the public is essential to our underlying responsibilities in the Communications Act – including our quadrennial review of media ownership rules. I assure you that any such efforts will not overstep our authority or raise any concerns like those expressed about the CIN study.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. House of Representatives
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Blackburn:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

I do want to take the opportunity to provide additional information as you requested in your letter regarding the costs of the study. The initial amount allocated for the Research Design, the Pilot, and other activities related to the test market study was approximately \$467,000. The earlier termination of the contract, the last invoice of which was received on May 9, 2014, resulted in a total payout of \$355,387.

Additionally, as noted above, halting the CIN study means we will have to find other ways to promote diversity in the communications market, and having reliable data on how the markets function and serve the public is essential to our underlying responsibilities in the Communications Act – including our quadrennial review of media ownership rules. I assure you that any such efforts will not overstep our authority or raise any concerns like those expressed about the CIN study.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Renee Ellmers
U.S. House of Representatives
426 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Ellmers:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

I do want to take the opportunity to provide additional information as you requested in your letter regarding the costs of the study. The initial amount allocated for the Research Design, the Pilot, and other activities related to the test market study was approximately \$467,000. The earlier termination of the contract, the last invoice of which was received on May 9, 2014, resulted in a total payout of \$355,387.

Additionally, as noted above, halting the CIN study means we will have to find other ways to promote diversity in the communications market, and having reliable data on how the markets function and serve the public is essential to our underlying responsibilities in the Communications Act – including our quadrennial review of media ownership rules. I assure you that any such efforts will not overstep our authority or raise any concerns like those expressed about the CIN study.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Cory Gardner
U.S. House of Representatives
213 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gardner:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

I do want to take the opportunity to provide additional information as you requested in your letter regarding the costs of the study. The initial amount allocated for the Research Design, the Pilot, and other activities related to the test market study was approximately \$467,000. The earlier termination of the contract, the last invoice of which was received on May 9, 2014, resulted in a total payout of \$355,387.

Additionally, as noted above, halting the CIN study means we will have to find other ways to promote diversity in the communications market, and having reliable data on how the markets function and serve the public is essential to our underlying responsibilities in the Communications Act – including our quadrennial review of media ownership rules. I assure you that any such efforts will not overstep our authority or raise any concerns like those expressed about the CIN study.

I hope you find this information helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
U.S. House of Representatives
308 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Guthrie:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

I do want to take the opportunity to provide additional information as you requested in your letter regarding the costs of the study. The initial amount allocated for the Research Design, the Pilot, and other activities related to the test market study was approximately \$467,000. The earlier termination of the contract, the last invoice of which was received on May 9, 2014, resulted in a total payout of \$355,387.

Additionally, as noted above, halting the CIN study means we will have to find other ways to promote diversity in the communications market, and having reliable data on how the markets function and serve the public is essential to our underlying responsibilities in the Communications Act – including our quadrennial review of media ownership rules. I assure you that any such efforts will not overstep our authority or raise any concerns like those expressed about the CIN study.

I hope you find this information helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger
U.S. House of Representatives
1221 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kinzinger:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

I do want to take the opportunity to provide additional information as you requested in your letter regarding the costs of the study. The initial amount allocated for the Research Design, the Pilot, and other activities related to the test market study was approximately \$467,000. The earlier termination of the contract, the last invoice of which was received on May 9, 2014, resulted in a total payout of \$355,387.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Leonard Lance
U.S. House of Representatives
133 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lance:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

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I hope you find this information helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Bob Latta
U.S. House of Representatives
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

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I hope you find this information helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Billy Long
U.S. House of Representatives
1541 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
U.S. House of Representatives
107 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pompeo:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Mike J Rogers
U.S. House of Representatives
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rogers:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Steve Scalise
U.S. House of Representatives
2338 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Scalise:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable John Shimkus
U.S. House of Representatives
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shimkus:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

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Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2014

The Honorable Lee Terry
U.S. House of Representatives
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Terry:

I would like to take the opportunity to follow up on my February 14, 2014, response regarding the FCC's Critical Information Needs (CIN) study to provide some additional information regarding my decision to bring the study to an end.

As noted previously, I agreed with you, and others that had similar concerns, that the approach outlined in the "Qualitative Analysis" portion of the Research Design was not appropriate. After my response to you in February, as a first step, I asked Commission staff to eliminate – in its entirety – that portion of the study. Upon further reflection, I decided that the study should not go forward at all. While this action has been characterized as a positive step by some, it does not mean that the Commission is abandoning its obligations under Section 257, or our review of diversity issues as part of the remand from the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. I take these responsibilities seriously, and want to ensure we approach them in the proper manner by seeking public input on the best way forward, and addressing any concerns head-on.

I do want to take the opportunity to provide additional information as you requested in your letter regarding the costs of the study. The initial amount allocated for the Research Design, the Pilot, and other activities related to the test market study was approximately \$467,000. The earlier termination of the contract, the last invoice of which was received on May 9, 2014, resulted in a total payout of \$355,387.

Additionally, as noted above, halting the CIN study means we will have to find other ways to promote diversity in the communications market, and having reliable data on how the markets function and serve the public is essential to our underlying responsibilities in the Communications Act – including our quadrennial review of media ownership rules. I assure you that any such efforts will not overstep our authority or raise any concerns like those expressed about the CIN study.

I hope you find this information helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler