

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2024

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The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

I write to you to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), within all applicable rules and regulations, and pursuant to the FCC's public interest mandate pursuant to the Radio Act of 1927 (P.L. 69-632), to thoroughly scrutinize the transfer of ownership of Audacy Inc. to Soros Fund Management. I am concerned, given Audacy's extensive portfolio of local radio stations, that this ownership transfer to a fund that itself is owned by a deeply partisan individual, could have a fundamental impact on the nature of local radio and potentially silence political viewpoints. The FCC's stewardship over AM and FM bandwidth across the United States is critical, and I therefore ask that the commission ensure its due diligence and thoughtful scrutiny over the transfer of ownership of Audacy, Inc. and its portfolio of local radio stations to an investor with a long, well-known track record of pushing a far left, partisan agenda.

AM radio stations are critical forms of media and communication for local communities across the United States. In and around my own district, NY-23, the Buffalo media market remains the top local radio market—specifically AM radio—in the country. Upstate New Yorkers, as is the case elsewhere, rely on local radio to stay up to date on everything from emergency alerts to national and local news. Americans still rely on local radio as one of the last media outlets available for local news, as well as diverse opinions across the political spectrum.

Audacy, Inc., despite its recent financial troubles, remains the nation's second-largest radio company, owning more than 220 stations nationwide. With the acquisition of \$400 million of Audacy's debt, The Soros Fund Management will now have significant ownership of Audacy moving forward. This is just the latest in a series of purchases by funds linked to Mr. Soros of media companies—including the purchase in 2023 of Vice Media, and an earlier purchase of Crooked Media.

I believe that this sale is the latest in a series of moves by a partisan, progressive billionaire to consolidate control over the media and flood hundreds of local radio stations with far-left ideology and propaganda. Furthermore, I believe that what we could lose in the process is the unique lifeline that local radio brings through both local connection and diversity of thought that have been so important to Americans, particularly in recent years.

This sale of debt and transfer of ownership to a fund owned by Mr. George Soros suggests a serious effort to silence opposing voices on the airwaves, jeopardizing the future of community-based radio in the process. This matter gives the FCC reason to act with the due diligence with which it has been tasked. I strongly urge the FCC to examine this transfer of ownership with full scrutiny.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick A. Langworthy", is written over a horizontal line.

Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress