

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641
September 6, 2017

The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Clyburn:

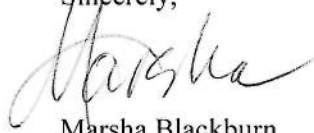
Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology on Tuesday, July 25, 2017, to testify at the hearing entitled "Oversight and Reauthorization of the Federal Communications Commission."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. Your responses should be mailed to Evan Viau, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to Evan.Viau@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Cc: The Honorable Michael F. Doyle, Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Yvette Clarke

1. Unlicensed spectrum – for uses like Wi-Fi – provides incredible value to the economy. By one estimate, that value will reach \$547 billion this year, provided that sufficient unlicensed spectrum is made available. But a February 2017 study by Quotient Associates forecasts a Wi-Fi spectrum shortfall in the United States of between 788 MHz and 1.6 GHz by 2025, and predicts a particular need for more contiguous Wi-Fi spectrum to support 160 MHz “Gigabit Wi-Fi” channels.
 - a. What can the FCC do to maintain U.S. leadership in Wi-Fi technology and ensure that sufficient unlicensed spectrum is made available to support ubiquitous access to Gigabit Wi-Fi among American consumers?

The Honorable Tony Cárdenas

1. I have concerns about the potential merger between Sinclair and Tribune. I particularly worry about what this merger will mean for diversity in the media, something that I have worked to be a champion for as a legislator and as co-chair of the Multicultural Media Caucus with my colleague Congresswoman Yvette Clarke. It’s troubling that the combined Sinclair/Tribune would have access to 72% of the households in the country.
 - a. Can you walk us through the FCC’s role in approving or denying mergers like this one? What are the particular harms to consumers you’ll be looking for?
2. One of the hallmarks of the broadcast industry is localism—the idea that local stories and news ought to be covered. It’s also one of the FCC’s legal responsibilities to promote localism (as well as diversity, competition and public interest). I’ve heard reports, however, that Sinclair Broadcasting has recently started pushing so called “must-run” content to its stations. Not only does this must-run content undermine the local nature of the broadcasting, I also understand much of this content is politically charged. This is very disturbing to me.
 - a. Do you have similar concerns about the apparent waning importance of localism and the increasing prevalence of politically charged must-run programming being distributed over the nation’s airwaves?
 - b. Do you have concerns about his merger’s potential impact on competition in broadcasting at a national and local level?