

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
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September 25, 2017

Ms. Rebecca Murphy Thompson
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Competitive Carriers Association
805 15th Street, N.W.; Suite 401
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Murphy Thompson:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology on Thursday, September 7, 2017, to testify at the hearing entitled "The Broadcast Incentive Auction: Update on Repacking Opportunities and Challenges."

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 Tuesday, October 10, 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 Tony Cárdenas

1. This hearing is in many ways about the future of broadcasting and access to spectrum for our broadband future. There is one company in particular that has a huge impact on this issue but is not here today. That company, Sinclair Broadcasting, is seeking approval for a merger that would give them dominant access to 72% of American homes, through local stations.

Right now these local stations produce and distribute local content, covering local sports and local news. They have local news anchors that in many cases have been part of the community for years and are a trusted source for Americans, Republican and Democrat, that turn to them for news they can trust.

Sinclair has a history of taking over local stations and gutting them. By taking over local stations that serve 72% of homes, they could dramatically alter the local content that 72% of homes receive, replacing it with their own Baltimore-created, one-size-fits-all content.

Sinclair is already the largest owner of television stations; they also are already the owner of the largest and most important supplier of antennas and related equipment crucial in this repack.

And yet, this Committee has not scheduled a hearing on the impact of this Sinclair/Tribune transaction on the issues we are discussing today and so many other issues that are within this Committee's jurisdiction.

- a. Though broadcasters by and large are hoping that the repacking process goes smoothly and is completed by the deadline, do you believe that an extraordinarily powerful broadcaster like Sinclair would have motive and/or ability to delay the repacking process?
2. Could you explain the impact that a corporation of the size of Sinclair (should its merger with Tribune go through) might have on the repacking process?