

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 27, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

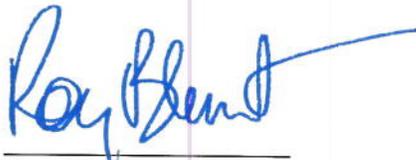
Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write to express our concerns regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) plan to vote during its March 2014 meeting on a proposed rule change concerning attribution of joint sales agreements (JSAs) and other arrangements between TV station owners.

In small- and medium-sized markets, JSAs and other financial agreements between local TV broadcasters to share facilities have a track record for expanding the diversity and localism of programming, and enabling efficiencies that have saved lives. In Missouri, we have seen the benefits of these arrangements in Springfield and Joplin. In 2006, through a series of arrangements, the parent company of a local station was able to invest, reduce redundant costs, and expand advertising sales for its smaller competitor. As a result, a once struggling station has improved tremendously and was the recent recipient of a National Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Newscast. Additionally, in Joplin, a JSA arrangement between two stations provided the economic efficiencies that enabled upgrades to the stations' Doppler radar systems, which helped save lives when a devastating tornado hit Joplin in May 2011. Lastly, JSAs add to diversity across the country by expanding Spanish-language local programming, and, significantly, the only three stations owned by African Americans operate through joint sales agreements.

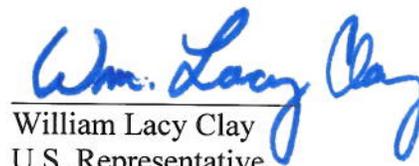
We fully expect existing agreements in Missouri already approved by the FCC to be properly grandfathered by any prospective rules. Moreover, we expect that arrangements currently awaiting approval under existing rules should be examined in light of the rules when the application was made. Finally, we believe the process for considering changes to the rules should be made in the context of the Commission's larger media ownership proceeding.

We strongly urge the Commission to be mindful of the harmful consequences that a rules change on JSAs, outside the context of a broader media ownership review, may have on diversity, localism, competition, and lives.

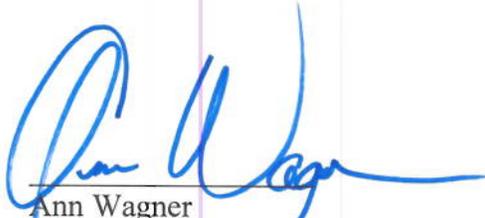


Roy Blunt  
U.S. Senator

Sincerely,



William Lacy Clay  
U.S. Representative



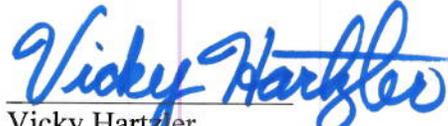
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Ann Wagner  
U.S. Representative



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Blaine Luetkemeyer  
U.S. Representative



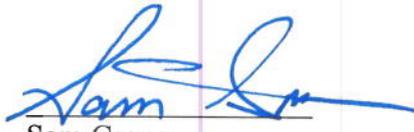
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Vicky Hartzler  
U.S. Representative



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Emanuel Cleaver II  
U.S. Representative



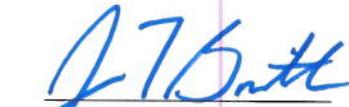
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Sam Graves  
U.S. Representative



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Billy Long  
U.S. Representative



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Jason Smith  
U.S. Representative