



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

April 5, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your letter encouraging the Commission to consider holding a field hearing in Seattle as part of its current Quadrennial Review of media ownership rules. I agree about the importance of public participation in this proceeding, and will ensure that your letter is included in the record of the proceeding.

The Commission has undertaken considerable public outreach in connection with this proceeding. In the lead-up to the *2010 Quadrennial Review Notice of Inquiry*, Commission staff held a series of public workshops, including workshops in California, Florida, and South Carolina. The data and information gathered from those workshops helped establish a foundation for the tentative conclusions drawn in the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)*. Outreach efforts so far have resulted in more than 100 comments and replies submitted for the record. If the Commission considers scheduling any addition public workshops or hearings, we will certainly consider Seattle.

Fundamental to the Commission's review is a concern that you also express – understanding the effect of market and regulatory changes on ownership by women and members of minority groups. A workshop on January 27, 2010 specifically examined how the media ownership rules affect diversity issues, including the goal of promoting female and minority ownership. The *NPRM* expressly targets inquiries into the effect of its proposals on these groups.

I appreciate your thoughts on this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski", written over a large, stylized flourish.

Julius Genachowski