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July 16, 2014

Mr. Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write to ask for the Commission's full consideration of the \$58.5 million sale of three Nexstar Broadcasting Group TV stations to Marshall Broadcast Group (MBG), a proposed Joint Sales Agreement deal that would nearly double the number of African American-owned, full-power, commercial TV stations in the U.S. and simultaneously bring increased local news and sports programming to the Shreveport, Midland and Quad Cities markets.

While we share the FCC's concerns over potential abuses of the JSA arrangement, the proposed MBG/Nexstar deal is worthy of your consideration for three key reasons:

- 1) **It honors two of the FCC's prime objectives: The promotion and protection of diversity and localism.**
  - a. Diversity: Only a handful of the nation's nearly 1,400 full-power, commercial TV stations are black-owned, an abysmal figure that represents not much more than a statistical rounding error. FCC approval of this deal would represent a good first step toward its goal of promoting diversity in ownership and programming.
  - b. Localism: Marshall Broadcast Group and Nexstar have pledged to air nearly 40 additional hours of local news and sports programming on the 3 stations, providing area viewers with what they want most – local content that matters to them and makes a difference in their lives.
- 2) **Marshall Broadcast Group has pledged to employ and contract a higher percentage of minority professionals, providing increased career opportunities for people of color in media and in broadcasting (where minorities, of course, are woefully underrepresented).**

**Letter to CBC chairman Tom Wheeler – Page 2**

**Marshall Broadcast Group has committed to providing a broad diversity of programming** designed to empower, entertain, enlighten and educate viewers from a wide array of ethnic and economic backgrounds.

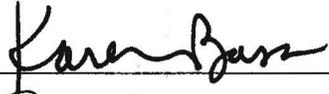
Although the FCC recently voted to restrict opportunities for JSAs in broadcasting due largely to concerns over possible abuses, we were encouraged to learn that your body would consider waiving restrictions for broadcasters that provide public interest benefits, including diversity of ownership for new entrants in broadcasting—especially minorities and women—and increased programming for traditionally underserved audiences, including racial and ethnic minorities.

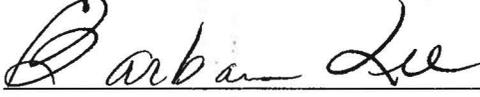
We support a more diverse owner base of American television stations and an approval of this deal, pursuant to a waiver of the JSA rule, could create an opportunity to promote more or better local news, public affairs and emergency information, diverse programming.

We ask that your body take a close look at the proposed Nexstar/Marshall Broadcast Group JSA deal and give the sale of 3 Nexstar TV stations to Marshall Broadcast Group your full consideration.

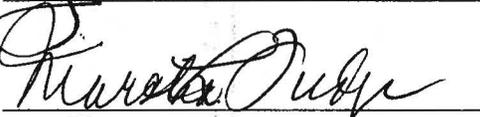
Thank you for your time and attention. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carrie Kohns, Chief of Staff to Rep. Karen Bass at [carrie.kohns@mail.house.gov](mailto:carrie.kohns@mail.house.gov) or 202-225-7084.

Sincerely,

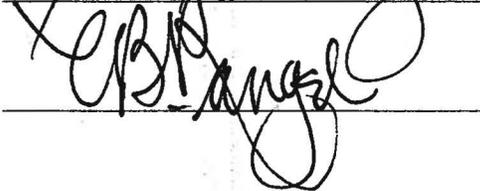
  
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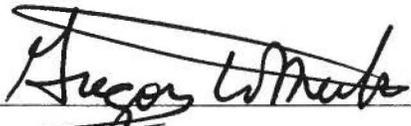
  
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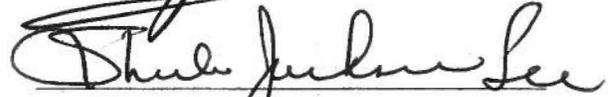
  
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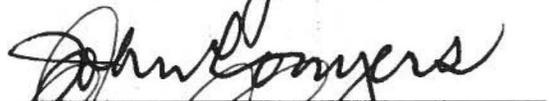
  
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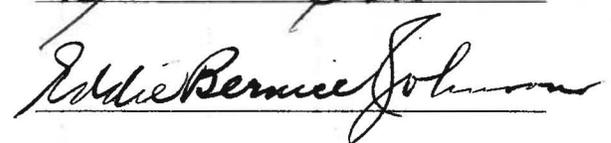
  
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