

SPENCER BACHUS
6TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

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JUDICIARY
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REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL,
AND ANTI-TRUST LAW

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

2245 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4821

1800 INTERNATIONAL PARK DRIVE
SUITE 107
BIRMINGHAM, AL 38243
(205) 988-2286

703 SECOND AVENUE NORTH
P.O. BOX 603
CLANTON, AL 36046
(205) 280-0704
<http://bachus.house.gov>

July 8, 2014

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The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

Please accept this letter in support of Black Television News Channel's (BTNC) application (MB DOCKET NO. 14-77) before the FCC to facilitate a public-private partnership between Florida A&M University and BTNC.

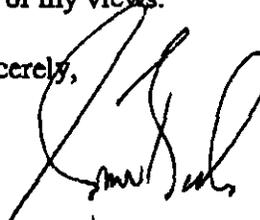
The partnership is designed to bring 14 hours per day of news, informational and educational programming targeted to an underserved minority audience. The network would foster greater understanding of the social, economic and other challenges faced by minority populations. Additionally, the partnership would provide an excellent opportunity for students at Florida A&M to gain real world experience through internships and other educational programs.

It is my understanding that in order to launch this project the partnership will need to temporarily operate in the Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) public interest space for the first three years as a nonprofit entity. The network will need to sell a limited amount of advertising to offset the high cost of producing original news content daily.

As you know, the purpose of the DBS public interest set-aside is to promote a diverse array of informational and educational programming. To this end, I believe that the FCC would be serving the public interest mandate by approving this application.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress

STB/bl