

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

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October 16, 2017

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

The President recently raised the stakes on his continuing attacks against the free and independent press when he questioned whether NBC station licenses should be renewed – or revoked – based on his disagreement with the reports released by NBC News. We find this escalation very troubling in that it could have a chilling effect on First Amendment freedoms.

The Protecting Dissenting Viewpoints and Voices Act specifically prohibits the FCC from retaliating against stations based on the viewpoints expressed or disseminated by the licensee, and prohibits the President from directing the Commission to take action against licensees on the same basis. We would encourage you to publicly support this bill and the position it stakes out.

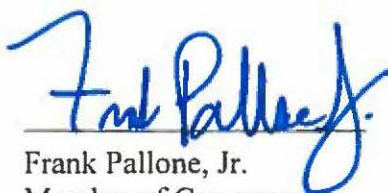
It is a sad state of affairs that such a bill would have to be introduced in the first place, but it is the situation that we find ourselves in today. In the absence of Congressional action on this bill, we ask you to specifically commit that you will promptly inform our offices if anyone in the Administration contacts you or a member of your staff regarding the license renewals for any broadcast station. We also ask for you to confirm your commitment that you will remain independent from any pressure by the President or his administration to influence the Commission's review of any broadcast license renewal or broadcast license transfer application. We hope that you stand by your prior comments that "these demands are fundamentally at odds with our legal and cultural traditions."

We appreciate your prompt reply to our requests by October 24.


Sincerely,



Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Michael Doyle  
Member of Congress



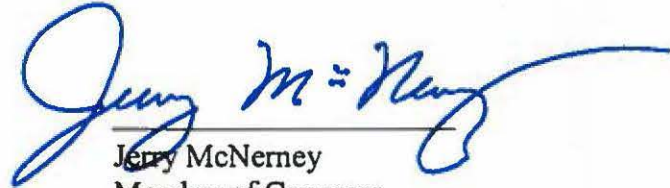
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress