

August 12, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

50 State Broadcasters Associations, Including the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, In Support of the Reinstatement of the Diversity Tax Certificate Program

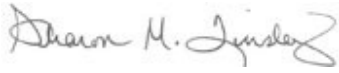
Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Schumer, McConnell and McCarthy:

On behalf of the undersigned broadcasters associations representing local, over-the-air broadcast stations in all 50 states, including the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, we write today to ask that you support and consider swift passage of H.R. 4871, the Expanding Broadcast Opportunities Act of 2021 introduced by Reps. G.K. Butterfield and Steven Horsford, and S. 2456 the Broadcast Varied Ownership Incentives for Community Expanded Service Act (Broadcast VOICES Act) introduced by Sens. Gary Peters and Robert Menendez. These pieces of legislation reinstate the tax certificate program at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that would encourage investment in TV and radio broadcast station ownership for women and people of color.

From 1978 to 1995, the Minority Tax Certificate program established at the FCC provided a tax incentive to individuals who sold their majority interest in a broadcast station to people of color. During that time frame, TV and radio broadcast station ownership by people of color increased by more 550 percent. Fast forward to 2021, diverse ownership in our industry has drastically changed not due to lack of effort or interest, but due to lack of access to capital. Currently, women make up less than 6 percent of broadcast TV station owners and people of color make up less than 3 percent. When it comes to broadcast radio station owners, women make up around 7 percent of owners and people of color make up less than 3 percent.

Broadcasters provide an invaluable resource to all communities, serving as a local and trusted source for news and information across the country. Our strength is in our ability to cover diverse community experiences and tell stories from an authentic perspective. The tax certificate program will help us build a local media landscape that reflects our communities on the air, both in the control booth and boardroom. Additionally, the Expanding Broadcast Ownership Opportunities Act of 2021 and the Broadcast VOICES Act will help with building a pipeline for a new generation of broadcast station owners that is inclusive of women, people of color and other underrepresented individuals. We therefore urge Congress to act swiftly and pass H.R. 4871 and S. 2456 to make sure that all voices are accurately represented in the broadcasting industry.


Respectfully,



Alabama Broadcasters Association
Sharon Tinsley



Alaska Broadcasters Association
Cathy Hiebert



Arizona Broadcasters Association
Christopher Kline



Arkansas Broadcasters Association
Luke Story



California Broadcasters Association
Joe Berry



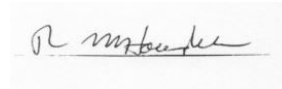
Colorado Broadcasters Association
Justin Sasso



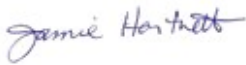
Connecticut Broadcasters Association
Michael Patrick Ryan



Florida Association of Broadcasters
C. Patrick Roberts



Georgia Association of Broadcasters
Bob Houghton



Hawaii Association of Broadcasters
Jamie Hartnett



Idaho State Broadcasters Association
Connie Searles



Illinois Broadcasters Association
Dennis Lyle

Dave Arland



Indiana Broadcasters Association
Dave Arland

Lisa Reynolds



Iowa Broadcasters Association
Lisa Reynolds

Allison Mazzei



Kansas Association of Broadcasters
Allison Mazzei

Chris Winkle



Kentucky Broadcasters Association
Chris Winkle

Polly Prince Johnson



Louisiana Association of Broadcasters
Polly Prince Johnson

Suzanne Goucher



Maine Association of Broadcasters
Suzanne Goucher

Lisa Reynolds



Maryland/D.C./Delaware (MDCD) Broadcasters Association
Lisa Reynolds

Jordan Walton



Massachusetts Broadcasters Association
Jordan Walton

Karole L. White



Michigan Association of Broadcasters
Karole L. White

Wendy S. Paulson



Minnesota Broadcasters Association
Wendy Paulson

Amanda S. Fontaine

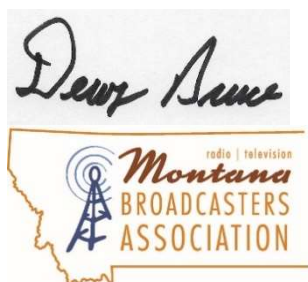


Mississippi Association of Broadcasters
Amanda Fontaine

Mark Gordon



Missouri Broadcasters Association
Mark Gordon



Montana Broadcasters Association
Dewey Bruce



Nebraska Broadcasters Association
Jim Timm



Nevada Broadcasters Association
Mitch Fox



New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters
Tracy Caruso



New Jersey Broadcasters Association
Paul Rotella



New Mexico Broadcasters Association
Paula Maes



New York State Broadcasters Association
David Donovan



North Carolina Association of Broadcasters
Lisa Reynolds



North Dakota Broadcasters Association
Beth Helfrich



Ohio Association of Broadcasters
Christine Merritt



Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters
Vance Harrison



Oregon Association of Broadcasters
Bob Singer

Joe Conti



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS

**Pennsylvania Association
of Broadcasters**

Joe Conti

Felix A Bonnet



**Radio Broadcasters
Association of Puerto Rico**
Felix Bonnet

Lori Needham



**Rhode Island Broadcasters
Association**
Lori Needham

Margaret Wallace



**South Carolina Broadcasters
Association**
Margaret Wallace

Steve Willard



**South Dakota Broadcasters
Association**
Steve Willard

Chris Baker



Tennessee Association
of Broadcasters
**Tennessee Association of
Broadcasters**
Chris Baker

Oscar Rodriguez



**Texas Association of
Broadcasters**
Oscar Rodriguez

Michele Zabriskie



**Utah Broadcasters
Association**
Michele Zabriskie

Wendy Mays



**Vermont Association of
Broadcasters**
Wendy Mays

Doug Easter



**Virginia Association of
Broadcasters**
Doug Easter

Keith Shipman



**Washington State
Association of Broadcasters**
Keith Shipman

Michele Crist



**West Virginia Broadcasters
Association**
Michele Crist

Michelle Vetterkind



Wisconsin Broadcasters Association
Michelle Vetterkind

Laura Grott



Wyoming Association of Broadcasters
Laura Grott