



Press Statement

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MMTC URGES CHAIRMAN WHEELER TO AFFIRM BROAD REACH OF MVPD PROCUREMENT RULE IS NOT SUBJECT TO STRICT SCRUTINY

Washington, DC (July 13, 2016): Today, the Federal Communications Commission released a statement clarifying a response FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler made during yesterday's FCC oversight hearing. When asked about a proposal by the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) in the Quadrennial Review order – which would extend the cable procurement requirements to broadcasters and other regulated communications industries – Chairman Wheeler suggested that “the Commission must be careful in determining whether that action would be reviewed under the strict-scrutiny standard, and if so whether it could satisfy that standard.”

MMTC President and CEO Kim Keenan has issued the following response:

“MMTC has reviewed the FCC staff's clarification of the Chairman's comments at yesterday's FCC Oversight Hearing. We urge the Chairman to affirm that the broad outreach of the MVPD Procurement Rule is not subject to 'strict scrutiny.' We stand in support of the July 12, 2016, letter from Congresswoman Clarke and Congressmen Rush and Butterfield requesting that the MVPD Procurement Rule, adopted and implemented under the 1992 Cable Act, be extended to all communications industries, with a referral to GAO for Title I information services.”

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About MMTC:

The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is a non-partisan, national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecommunications, and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for minority advancement in communications.