



NABOB

National Association of
Black Owned Broadcasters

Press Statement

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MMTC and NABOB File Petition with U.S. Court of Appeals to Review the FCC's Refusal to Extend Equal Procurement Opportunity to All Communications Industries

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 16, 2016): The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) and the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB) have filed a petition in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit asking the court to review the Federal Communications Commission's lack of action on MMTC's proposal to extend the 1992 Cable Procurement Rule to all communications and high tech industries.

The Cable Procurement Rule has been a success in advancing minority and women entrepreneurship. Its extension to all communications and high tech companies was unopposed by industry and was endorsed by 57 national organizations and by a unanimous vote of the FCC's own (former) Advisory Committee on Diversity.

"Despite representations to the Third Circuit that the FCC Chairman would address this issue in a manner that would allow it to be resolved [in August], the FCC has once again punted the issue," MMTC and NABOB stated in their petition to the court.

"The Commission's failure to extend its Cable Procurement Rule across all telecommunications platforms is illogical and incompatible with Congressional mandate," stated MMTC President and CEO Kim Keenan. "The FCC has an obligation to move policy forward that stimulates ownership diversity. Yet, with diversity dwindling in telecommunications ownership, the Commission has let another opportunity for minority- and women-owned businesses to compete for billions of dollars in procurement slip away."

Four former FCC chairs (Reed Hundt, William Kennard, Michael Copps, and Julius Genachowski) and three members of the House Communications and Technology Subcommittee (Reps. G.K. Butterfield, Yvette Clarke, and Bobby Rush) have advocated strongly for the extension of the Cable Procurement Rule to all communications technologies.

The petition is available online [here](#). The letter from four former FCC chairs can be found [here](#), the letter from the three Members of Congress can be found [here](#), and a summary of MMTC's universal equal procurement proposal can be found [here](#) (at pp. 3-6).

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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, telecom and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for minority advancement in communications.

About NABOB:

NABOB is the first and only trade organization representing the interests of African-American owners of radio and television stations across the country. The association was organized in 1976 by a small group of African-American broadcasters who desired to establish a voice and a viable presence in the industry and to address specific concerns facing African-American broadcasters.