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### **MMTC Finds FCC Diverse Broadcast Ownership Report Results ‘Alarming’; Urges Commission to Reprioritize Ownership Diversity**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 14, 2020):** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released a [report](#) on its biennial collection of broadcast ownership diversity, affirming a significant void in ownership diversity across all measures. The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) finds the results of this long-awaited report abysmal and alarming. MMTC urges the Commission to reaffirm and reprioritize its commitment to women and minority broadcast ownership.

The Commission’s findings are the culmination of years of regulatory and deregulatory efforts that collectively resulted in higher entry barriers, fewer incentives to generate access to capital for underrepresented voices, and widespread media consolidation. Key findings include:

- Women own just 5.3% of full power commercial television stations, 7.4% of low power television stations, 9.3% of commercial AM radio stations, and 7.2% of commercial FM radio stations;
- Latinos own just 4.2% of full power commercial television stations, 13.4% of low power television stations, 6.1% of commercial AM radio stations, and 4.1% of commercial FM radio stations; and
- Racial minorities, including African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders, and mixed-race individuals collectively own just 1.9% of full power commercial television stations, 2.0% of low power television stations, 5.9% of commercial AM radio stations, and 2.9% of commercial FM radio stations.

The report focuses on aggregate data for racial minorities, reflecting the reality that for many of these groups, such as African Americans and American Indians/Alaska Natives, ownership for commercial and non-commercial broadcast stations is statistically zero. Additionally, the reported diverse ownership figures for most classes of broadcast stations revealed significant declines between 2015 and 2017.

MMTC President and CEO Maurita Coley declared that “the results found in the FCC’s report, while not surprising, are extremely alarming. MMTC and our partner organizations like the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB) have warned for years of the stagnation and, in many respects, decline of diverse broadcast ownership, and we have urged the Commission to take measures to slow and reverse these trends. The report quantifies the negative impact that barriers to entry, a lack of incentives for access to capital, and widespread media consolidation have had on opportunities for voices of color. The Commission must work to advance diverse broadcast ownership immediately – the current state is nothing short of tragic.”

MMTC reaffirms our position that this is a critical issue for American society. In an increasingly diverse nation, a diversity of viewpoints is paramount, and communities deserve stations that reflect their unique circumstances and needs. Further, diverse ownership economically empowers historically marginalized and disadvantaged communities, uplifting America’s economy as a whole.

MMTC has been encouraged by recent efforts in Congress to rectify these issues through major bills such as [Rep. Butterfield’s Expanding Broadcast Ownership Opportunities Act](#) designed to revive the FCC Tax Certificate Policy, and the House and Senate resolutions reaffirming their commitment to media diversity and pledging to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity.

We urge the Commission to take similar notice, redouble its efforts, and appropriately prioritize this issue.

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