

**STATEMENT OF NINE FORMER FCC CHAIRS RECOMMENDING
REINSTATEMENT OF THE FCC'S TAX CERTIFICATE POLICY¹**

September 7, 2021

Each of us has had the honor of serving as a chairperson of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

In each of our administrations, one of the most critical goals was advancing diversity and competition in broadcasting. Congress has expected the FCC to ensure that all Americans, regardless of race, have a genuine opportunity to become an owner in one of the most influential industries in the nation.

The greatest barrier to diversity is access to capital, which is why the Tax Certificate Policy was so important. It provided that a licensee who sold his or her station to a minority entrepreneur could defer payment of capital gains taxes upon reinvestment in comparable property. This relief benefitted buyers, sellers, and consumers.

The policy was highly successful: from 1978 to 1995, minority ownership in broadcast television and radio stations quintupled. But in the years since the repeal of the policy, the frequency with which broadcast properties have been sold to minorities has fallen dramatically.

Fortunately, legislation has been introduced in the House by Representatives G.K. Butterfield and Steven Horsford, and in the Senate by Senators Gary Peters and Robert Menendez, to enable the FCC to reinstate and improve the policy.

¹ The views expressed in the statement are the personal views of the signatories and are not intended to reflect the views of the signatories' employers or associations.

The legislation is supported by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC), the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB), the National Urban League (NUL), United States Black Chambers Incorporated, Asian American Advancing Justice – AAJC, League of United Latin American Citizens, and Hispanic Federation. We are proud to lend our bipartisan voices in support.

Newton N. Minow (1961-1963)

Richard E. Wiley (1974-1977)

Reed E. Hundt (1993-1997)

William E. Kennard (1997-2001)

Michael K. Powell (2001-2005)

Michael J. Copps (2009)

Julius Genachowski (2009-2013)

Mignon Clyburn (2013)

Tom Wheeler (2013-2017)