



March 28, 2023

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the undersigned leaders of a cross-section of national media and communications organizations and businesses, we are pleased to have the opportunity to submit to you our support and resolve to strongly recommend that you renominate the Honorable Geoffrey Adams Starks to continue to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Since 2019, Commissioner Starks has distinguished himself as an effective and engaged member of the FCC. In particular, Commissioner Starks has continued to be a visionary regulator who has worked to ensure that the communications industry strives to become more equitable, fair, diverse, and accountable to the interests of all Americans.

Specifically, Commissioner Starks led the launch of the Early Career Staff Diversity Initiative at the FCC to advance equitable opportunities for underrepresented undergraduate, graduate, and law students. Students from some of the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have benefited from their successful participation in the FCC Early Career Staff Diversity Initiative.

In addition, he has championed the cause of minority broadcasters and promoted technology that will benefit minority broadcasters and small businesses struggling to compete in consolidated industries.

Commissioner Starks has said that "communications technology has the potential to be one of the most powerful forces for promoting equality and opportunity. To unlock that potential, however, all Americans must have access." We agree completely and firmly believe that his membership on the FCC can help unlock that potential. Commissioner Starks has been outstanding in his leadership to combat internet inequality to advocating for diversity in employment, entrepreneurship, and media ownership.

Just as important, Commissioner Starks has been a Champion on getting families signed up to take advantage of the benefits of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). He has proposed and led the efforts on a new ACP pilot program "Called *Your Home, Your Internet.*" This program is designed to help families receiving federal public housing assistance in twenty cities get connected by making the ACP application easier to complete, developing better intergovernmental coordination, using clearer language, and providing more opportunities for assistance during the sign-up process. Of course, he has done so much more than this program to help us close the digital divide.

Commissioner Starks has also been a leader in encouraging minority owned radio and other media businesses to have access to ongoing innovations in the communications industry. We believe, therefore, that your Administration's commitment to government-wide equal opportunity and equity will be further fulfilled with the renomination of Commissioner Starks.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



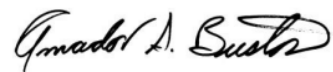
Robert Branson, Esq.
President and CEO
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Marc H. Morial
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National Urban League



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr
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National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA)



Amador Bustos
President and CEO
Bustos Media, LLC



Congressman Wm. Lacy Clay (D, Mo.-1, retired)



Rob Neal
President and Executive Director
International Black Broadcasters Association (IBBA)



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Missouri State Senate



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Vernon Betts
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St. Louis, MO



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Chair and Treasurer
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Dev Viswanath
Board Member and General Counsel
Best Media, Inc.



Steve Hegwood
President and CEO
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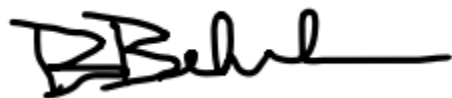
Mike McKay
Founder, CEO & Managing Partner
Empire Consulting Group, Inc.



Steve Evans
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KVEL/KLCY/KIFX/BasinNow.com
Evans Family Media



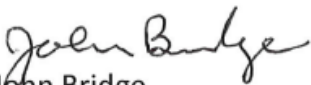
Roger Anderson
Owner
KAFF – 930AM
Flagstaff Radio, Inc.



Brad Behnke
CEO
Silicon Valley Asian Media Group, LLC

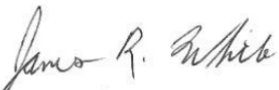


Lamont Watts
Owner
Clubsteppin.com



John Bridge

CEO
Windy City Broadcasting, LLC



James White

CEO
JDJ Communications, LLC



Tom Scherlen

COO
Radio by Grace

Notables:

Robert Branson President and CEO of MMTC, 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

Marc Morial President and CEO of the National Urban League, an historic civil rights organization dedicated to economic empowerment in order to elevate the standard of living in underserved urban communities by creating frameworks to create policies that serve communities of color

Dr. Benjamin Chavis an African American civil rights leader, author, journalist, organic chemist, environmentalist, global entrepreneur, current President and CEO of the NNPA, and host of a PBS television show, “The Chavis Chronicles” where current and diverse conversations are explored in engaging, enlightening, and entertaining ways

Amador Bustos President and CEO of one of the few independent Hispanic owned radio groups broadcasting critical information with Spanish-language formats across the radio station operating platform in several US markets

Lacy Clay Former Missouri Congressman and former member of the Congressional Black Caucus with 20 years experience as a member of the House of Representatives

Rob Neal President and Executive Director of the IBBA, an organization that brings together African American broadcast professionals by promoting ownership, employment, education, and equality for minority broadcasters

Steve Roberts, Sr. African American radio station owner and founding NABOB board member

David Honig President Emeritus and Senior Advisor of MMTC, 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

Steven Roberts, Jr. proudly served as a Missouri State Senator and former Chairman of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus

Jonathan Mason African American owner of a media, entertainment, and digital marketing solutions company that owns and operates market-leading radio stations

Howard Robertson African American owner of one of the largest marketing and communication agencies in the country

Vernon Betts African American Sheriff for the City of St. Louis

Dr. Ronald Johnson Chair of MMTC, 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

Dev Viswanath South Asian/American owner of radio and television stations in the New York and Dallas markets servicing the South Asian communities

Steve Hegwood African American radio station group President and CEO of Core Communicators Broadcasting

Mike McKay head of a strategic business and public policy firm serving leading technology, wireless, broadcast and other industry clients

Steve Evans owner of radio stations including in the Uinta Basin broadcasting critical information to Native Americans in Utah

Roger Anderson owner of Flagstaff Radio delivering critical information to the Native American audience in Flagstaff, Arizona

Brad Behnke owner of radio station KSJO serving the South Asian community in the San Francisco Bay area

Lamont Watts African American radio station Owner of Clubsteppin, a 1970s/80s based R&B Step Dance format in Chicago

John Bridge owner of 95.1 FM Chicago broadcasting urban formatted entertainment and critical information to African Americans in Chicago

Tom Scherlen COO of Radio by Grace with nearly 100 radio stations distributing programming from African American Dallas-based pastor Tony Evans to African American communities across United States

James White owner of urban formatted WWSZ in Atlanta and CEO of JDJ Communications