



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
October 13, 2004

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**85 HOUSE DEMOCRATS ASK FCC TO INVESTIGATE
BROADCASTING OF ANTI-KERRY FILM**

*Sinclair Broadcasting's Plans May Violate Equal Time Rules,
Broadcast Would Reach Nearly 25 Percent of America*

WASHINGTON, DC – The House Democratic Leadership, including Leader Nancy Pelosi, Whip Steny Hoyer, Caucus Chairman Bob Menendez, and Vice Chairman Jim Clyburn, was joined by 81 members of the House Democratic Caucus in writing to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell today to request an FCC investigation into Sinclair Broadcasting Inc.'s decision to pre-empt regular programming on its 62 affiliates across the country in order to air a 90-minute anti-Kerry attack before the November 2nd election:

“The American public, which owns the airwaves that Sinclair would use for its partisan political purposes, expects the FCC to uphold the basic principle of fairness which is at the root of our democracy.

“If Sinclair Broadcasting is allowed to proceed with this broadcast it is difficult to understand how equal time policies will not have been violated,” wrote the 85 members of Congress.

Attached are the full text of the letter and a list of signatories.

October 13, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room 8-A204A
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

We write to express our concern regarding Sinclair Broadcasting Group, Inc.'s plan to preempt regular programming on its affiliates in order to air a 90-minute anti-Kerry attack before the November 2nd election.

We ask you to investigate the broadcasting of this anti-Kerry propaganda immediately before a presidential election by a company with a history of using public airwaves to broadcast its political positions and to determine if it is a proper use of public airwaves or if it violates current equal time policies.

Sinclair Broadcasting owns 62 Fox, ABC, CBS, NBC, WB and UPN affiliates which reach 24 percent of U.S. households. Its decision to blatantly use public airwaves for political use, to attempt to cover-up that attack as “news programming,” and to disingenuously invite Senator Kerry to a panel discussion to meet fairness requirements would seem to violate current law and regulation.

The American public, which owns the airwaves that Sinclair would use for its partisan political purposes, expects the FCC to uphold the basic principle of fairness which is at the root of our democracy.

If Sinclair Broadcasting is allowed to proceed with this broadcast it is difficult to understand how equal time policies will not have been violated.

We urge you to investigate this matter without delay, and would appreciate an immediate reply regarding your intentions to investigate these allegations.

List of signatories.

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Rep. Steny Hoyer | 32. Rep. Tom Lantos |
| 2. Rep. Nancy Pelosi | 33. Rep. Rosa DeLauro |
| 3. Rep. Henry Waxman | 34. Rep. Loretta Sanchez |
| 4. Rep. Louise Slaughter | 35. Rep. Steve Rothman |
| 5. Rep. Robert Menendez | 36. Rep. Joe Crowley |
| 6. Rep. Frank Pallone | 37. Rep. Lynn Woolsey |
| 7. Rep. Jan Schakowsky | 38. Rep. Alcee Hastings |
| 8. Rep. Bernie Sanders | 39. Rep. Zoe Lofgren |
| 9. Rep. John Conyers | 40. Rep. Pete Stark |
| 10. Rep. George Miller | 41. Rep. Hilda Solis |
| 11. Rep. John Olver | 42. Rep. Max Sandlin |
| 12. Rep. James Clyburn | 43. Rep. Charlie Gonzalez |
| 13. Rep. Robert Brady | 44. Rep. Jim Moran |
| 14. Rep. Lane Evans | 45. Rep. Don Payne |
| 15. Rep. Richard Neal | 46. Rep. Adam Schiff |
| 16. Rep. Betty McCollum | 47. Rep. Chris Bell |
| 17. Rep. Luis Guitierrez | 48. Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald |
| 18. Rep. Maurice Hinchey | 49. Rep. Carolyn McCarthy |
| 19. Rep. Gary Ackerman | 50. Rep. David Price |
| 20. Rep. Steve Israel | 51. Rep. John Tierney |
| 21. Rep. Edolphus Towns | 52. Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick |
| 22. Rep. Chakah Fattah | 53. Rep. Jay Inslee |
| 23. Rep. Lois Capps | 54. Rep. Sander Levin |
| 24. Rep. Peter Deutsch | 55. Rep. Elliot Engel |
| 25. Rep. Ellen Tauscher | 56. Rep. Mike Honda |
| 26. Rep. Carolyn Maloney | 57. Rep. Sam Farr |
| 27. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez | 58. Rep. Danny Davis |
| 28. Rep. Tom Allen | 59. Rep. Peter DeFazio |
| 29. Rep. Diana DeGette | 60. Rep. Shelley Berkley |
| 30. Rep. Robert Matsui | 61. Rep. Earl Blumenauer |
| 31. Rep. Jim McDermott | 62. Rep. Michael Doyle |

63. Rep. Al Wynn
64. Rep. Charles Rangel
65. Rep. Kendrick Meek
66. Rep. Solomon Ortiz
67. Rep. Elijah Cummings
68. Rep. Greg Meeks
69. Rep. Ben Chandler
70. Rep. Barney Frank
71. Rep. Jerrold Nadler
72. Rep. James Oberstar
73. Rep. Maxine Waters
74. Rep. Ted Strickland

75. Rep. Anna Eshoo
76. Rep. Nita Lowey
77. Rep. Tammy Baldwin
78. Rep. Robert Wexler
79. Rep. Bart Stupak
80. Rep. James McGovern
81. Rep. Timothy Ryan
82. Rep. Silvestre Reyes
83. Rep. Tom Udall
84. Rep. Bob Etheridge
85. Rep. David Obey

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