



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON DC

September 5, 2018

Mike O'Rielly
Commissioner

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Udall
U.S. Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ed Markey
U.S. Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Blumenthal, Udall, and Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding communications between my office and the White House. Please see responses to your questions below.

- 1) Were you contacted by the White House regarding the Sinclair-Tribune proposal?

No. The only tangentially related conversation I had was on the afternoon of July 25, 2018 with Abigail Slater, Special Assistant to the President for Tech, Telecom, and Cyber Policy at the White House National Economic Council. My purpose for calling was to provide a courtesy heads up regarding an op-ed I was preparing for publication highlighting problems and advocating reforms to the International Telecommunication Union (see <http://thehill.com/opinion/technology/400990-reigning-in-uns-little-known-international-telecommunication-union>). During the call, we both acknowledged the existence of the previous night's tweet by President Trump on the Sinclair merger. At no time during the call were any views or positions on the merger shared by either of us.

- 2) Identify and provide a summary of all other instances in which you or your staff have been contacted by, or on behalf of, the White House, regardless of whether such contacts fall under the ex parte rules or other legal or ethical rules applicable to the FCC.

I have very little communication with this White House. In preparation for my participation at a White House round table on illegal copyright devices, which occurred on May 14, 2018, my office exchanged information with Vishal Amin, Jonathan Finer, and John Leveck on the logistics and agenda.

The only conversation I can recall beyond the one identified in Question 1 is a status call provided by Ms. Slater in which she provided an update on potential reforms to the "Team Telecom" process, an issue I care deeply about and have been working on at the Commission since 2015. This conversation was informational in nature.

Further, my office has been in contact with Ms. Slater and her office regarding my ability to participate at a potential White House round table to be held early this fall on wireless issues.

- 3) Will you commit to informing us and the public of any attempt by, or on behalf of, the White House to influence your or your staff's decision-making or direct you or your staff to take or not take any action (whether or not such contacts fall under the *ex parte* rules or other legal or ethical rules applicable to the FCC)?

The Commission is an independent agency and, since becoming a Commissioner in 2013, I have not allowed the previous White House or the current White House to improperly influence any of my decisions. I can commit to provide such information, if consistent with applicable law and/or Commission precedent and procedures, were it to occur.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M O'Rielly", with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Michael O'Rielly