November 28, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

50 State Broadcaster Associations, Including the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, In Support of the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell:

On behalf of the undersigned broadcaster associations representing local, over-the-air broadcast stations in all 50 states, including the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, we write today to ask that you bring S. 673, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA), to the Senate floor for consideration before the close of the 117th Congress. This bipartisan piece of legislation, introduced by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and John Kennedy (R-LA), would allow broadcasters and other news publishers to jointly negotiate with the dominant online platforms regarding the terms and conditions by which their content may be accessed online.

Broadcasters provide an invaluable resource to local communities around the country, serving as a trusted source for news and information. However, the major tech behemoths are threatening the survival of local broadcasters and other news publishers throughout American communities. These behemoths have grown to massive sizes, and have gained enormous market power. They have upended the advertising marketplace and, in many cases, have devised anticompetitive practices to protect it. Broadcasters and other news publishers are now competing with these massive platforms for advertising revenue, and these platforms often act as gatekeepers of online content – exerting power over what internet users access and how advertisers reach them.

The JCPA is an urgently needed first step toward countering Big Tech’s market dominance. This critical legislation would help level the playing field so that broadcasters and other local news publishers can jointly negotiate with dominant online platforms and be fairly compensated.

S. 673 has already undergone an extensive and rigorous process in the Senate Judiciary Committee, resulting in a strong bipartisan vote of 15 to 7 in favor of moving the legislation to the Senate floor. Republican and Democratic Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee made important changes to the bill to secure this bipartisan vote, and the legislation also enjoys the cosponsorship of a number of senior Republicans and Democrats who do not sit on the Committee.

We understand that there is precious little legislative time left on the Senate calendar before the end of the 117th Congress, and that there are a number of competing legislative priorities. However, the JCPA is urgently needed by local broadcasters and other news publishers so that they can continue to serve local communities around the country. Therefore, whether on its own or with a package of other legislation addressing other aspects of Big Tech market dominance, we urge you to bring this bipartisan bill before the full Senate before the end of the year.

Respectfully,
Hawaii Association of Broadcasters
Jamie Hartnett

Idaho State Broadcasters Association
Lisa Owens

Illinois Broadcasters Association
Dennis Lyle

Indiana Broadcasters Association
Dave Arland

Iowa Broadcasters Association
Lisa Reynolds

Kansas Association of Broadcasters
Allison Mazzei

Kentucky Broadcasters Association
Chris Winkle

Louisiana Association of Broadcasters
Polly Prince Johnson

Maine Association of Broadcasters
Tim Moore
Maryland/D.C./Delaware (MDCD) Broadcasters Association
Lisa Reynolds

Massachusetts Broadcasters Association
Jordan Walton

Michigan Association of Broadcasters
Sam Klemet

Minnesota Broadcasters Association
Wendy Paulson

Mississippi Association of Broadcasters
Amanda Fontaine

Missouri Broadcasters Association
Mark Gordon

Montana Broadcasters Association
Dewey Bruce

Nebraska Broadcasters Association
Jim Timm

Nevada Broadcasters Association
Mitch Fox
New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters
Tracy Caruso

New Jersey Broadcasters Association
John Mozes

New Mexico Broadcasters Association
Paula Maes

New York State Broadcasters Association
David Donovan

North Carolina Association of Broadcasters
Lisa Reynolds

North Dakota Broadcasters Association
Beth Helfrich

Ohio Association of Broadcasters
Christine Merritt

Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters
Vance Harrison

Oregon Association of Broadcasters
Bob Singer
Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters
Joe Conti

Radio Broadcasters Association of Puerto Rico
Felix Bonnet

Rhode Island Broadcasters Association
Lori Needham

South Carolina Broadcasters Association
Margaret Wallace

South Dakota Broadcasters Association
Steve Willard

Tennessee Association of Broadcasters
Chris Baker

Texas Association of Broadcasters
Oscar Rodriguez

Utah Broadcasters Association
Michele Zabriskie

Vermont Association of Broadcasters
Wendy Mays
Virginia Association of Broadcasters
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Washington State Association of Broadcasters
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West Virginia Broadcasters Association
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Wisconsin Broadcasters Association
Michelle Vetterkind

Wyoming Association of Broadcasters
Laura Grott