



Mr. Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC, 20554

October, 18, 2007

Re: Consolidated Application for Authority to Transfer Control of XM Radio Inc. and Sirius Satellite Radio Inc., MB Docket No. 07-57

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

Collectively, our organizations represent tens of thousands of rural consumers nationwide. And it is on behalf of our members and rural America that we continue to assert our support for the proposed SIRIUS-XM merger and strongly urge its approval by the Federal Communications Commission.

The emergency, weather and other informational services provided by satellite radio are vitally important to our nation's rural communities, and the prospect that these services could be improved and expanded by the efficiencies a merger would create is extremely encouraging for all of our organizations. Today, both XM and SIRIUS broadcast National Emergency Alert Service messages and both have dedicated channels that provide as-it-happens emergency information and updates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These services have proved particularly critical in times of disaster. During Hurricane Katrina, for example, XM and SIRIUS aided relief efforts by providing news and information to Red Cross Radio and victims of the hurricane. This merger is clearly in the best interest of rural consumers because it would allow a combined company to expand upon its existing services with increased efficiencies, and at the same time provide rural listeners with more diverse programming and lower pricing.

Furthermore, the rapidly increasing homogenization of programming on terrestrial radio is leaving rural listeners at a disadvantage. Terrestrial radio broadcasters once provided rural listeners with a variety of local programming options that were tailored to individual communities. A merger of SIRIUS and XM will make satellite radio a more viable option for rural consumers by drastically increasing programming options, even in the most remote areas.

Our organizations remain in support of this merger, as we truly believe it is in the best interest of our membership and all rural consumers nationwide, and ask that this transaction meet swift approval.

Sincerely,

Niel Ritchie
Executive Director, League of Rural Voters

Ralph Paige
Executive Director, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/LAF

Rudy Arredondo
President, National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association

Ross Racine
Executive Director, Intertribal Agriculture Council

Willard Tillman
Executive Director, Oklahoma Black Historical Research Society Project, Inc.