August 18, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation, Applications for Transfer of Control of Hispanic Broadcasting Corp., and Certain Subsidiaries, Licensees of KGBT AM, Harlingen, Texas *et al.* (Docket No. MB 02-235, FCC File Nos. BTC-20020723ABL, *et al.*)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Friday, August 15, 2003, we met with Commissioner Kevin Martin and with Paul Gallant, legal advisor to Chairman Michael Powell, to register our deep concerns about the proposed merger of Univision Communications, Inc. and Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation.

During our meetings, we described numerous ways in which the merger would harm our ministries to Hispanics living in California, Florida, New Jersey, and North Carolina, where our congregations reside, and throughout the United States.

We indicated that broadcasting in Spanish and in English are fundamentally different. Many members of our hundreds of congregations--in some cases, virtually all members of the congregation--are not able to speak and understand English well enough to function in an "English-only" society. They are dependent on the Spanish language for all significant communications. English language media are not available for their use and benefit.

Because of this dependence on Spanish language, the proposal for Univision to acquire Hispanic Broadcasting is very troubling. It will amount to a significant reduction in the diversity of broadcast programming for Hispanics. That is important to the persons to whom we minister and therefore it is very important to us. We are trying to deal with the physical needs of our congregations as well as the spiritual needs. Broadcasting is a very important source of information about the public services that are available. Broadcasting also is a very important way for us to communicate with our congregations and with other Hispanics who we may be able to assist. There are today too few places where those of us wishing to reach members of our community can turn when and as we are trying to communicate with them. The merger threatens

less opportunity for free coverage such as news and public service announcements. One keeper of such an important gate is very threatening. The merger also threatens higher prices for paid opportunities to address our congregations. There should be more independent outlets broadcasting in Spanish, not fewer.

We also mentioned the fact that having a single source of programming is very undesirable from the view of cultural diversity. It troubles us in two ways. First, there is a strong tendency already apparent for Univision to present programming to a "general" Hispanic audience rather than to the more specific cultures that make up the diverse heritages of Hispanics living in the United States. Second, some aspects of Univision's programming are not consistent with the values for which we stand and that we commend to our congregations. We mentioned this not because we want or expect the FCC to censor Univision, but because we do not think it is beneficial to permit it to become much larger at the expense of the possibility of outlets that could hold out cultural alternatives.

We are submitting two copies of this letter for the docket file.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Pablo Lago
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cc: Commissioner Kevin Martin
Paul Gallant
Scott R. Flick
Roy R. Russo
Harry F. Cole
Arthur V. Belendiuk