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May 16, 2003

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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Dear Chairman Powell:

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reviews the proposed merger between Univision and Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation, I hope that you will fully consider the effect this merger may have on Spanish speaking consumers and Hispanic American media ownership in the United States.

Hispanic Americans are this country's largest minority, accounting for 14% of the U.S. population. By 2020, one in every four Americans will be of Hispanic descent. Hispanics overwhelmingly receive their news, information, and entertainment from Spanish language radio and television. This is true even in bilingual households. The proposed merger between Univision and Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation would put nearly 70 percent of Spanish language media revenue in the hands of one company, raising strong concerns about the effect this could have on diversity of media voices and programming.

This merger would also put control of 70 percent of Spanish language media under the control of a non-Hispanic individual. This raises serious concerns about the under-representation of Hispanic Americans in media ownership in the United States. It is imperative that the FCC properly and formally examine the Spanish language media market as a whole before the Commission rules on any specific transaction. While the Commission may not have traditionally been faced with examining a market which is separate and distinct by virtue of the language in which the media is delivered, Spanish language media should be formally recognized and examined as such. Old notions of format and separation of radio and television simply do not apply in the Spanish language media market.

Thank you for your attention on this matter. I urge the Commission to examine the current state of the Spanish language broadcast marketplace and not to rule on any merger of Spanish language media properties until it has done so.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Democratic Leader

- cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
- Commissioner Michael J. Copps
- Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
- Commissioner Jonathan S. Adlstein

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