

ORIGINAL

CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ
28TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

1507 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4328
(202) 225-1640
(202) 225-1641 (FAX)

www.rodriquez.house.gov



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

August 12, 2003

EX PARTE ON LATE FILED
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM
UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS AND CAPABILITIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY READINESS
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH RANKING MEMBERS
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
CHAIRMAN

MB
Univision
pv
MKP
2427
MB Packet in 02-275

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street Southwest, Rm 8B201
Washington, DC 20554-0001

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am contacting you regarding the merger between Univision and Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation (HBC). As a representative of a predominantly Hispanic district in Texas, I know first-hand the importance of Spanish-language media to my constituents and millions of others across the United States. Univision and HBC have been major influences in making Spanish-language media competitive with much larger English-language competitors, while introducing many mainstream advertisers to the Hispanic populace for the first time.

While I am always cautious of any media concentration, I am convinced that the proposed merger would enhance, not detract, opportunities to serve Spanish-speaking, Hispanic and general audiences. The increased stature of Hispanic media as a result of this merger will allow Hispanic media to compete more effectively for advertisers who do not yet serve this important and fast-growing audience. The influx of new capital to the industry will in turn create new opportunities for growth and new programming. Moreover, the combination of Univision's and HBC's resources will enhance and expand the media services available to the Hispanic community much as the recent merger between NBC and Telemundo enhanced Telemundo's news resources and coverage.

I encourage the FCC to proceed expeditiously with a ruling on this merger. In doing so I expect that the Commission will apply standards similar to those applied in comparable mergers of television and radio companies with which Univision and HBC compete. I understand that the Commission has been urged to apply a different regulatory treatment to broadcast stations that choose to serve a predominantly Hispanic audience. As the FCC has determined in past reviews of content and formats, there is no basis for imposing a separate regulatory standard upon broadcasters who carry Spanish-language programming or who voluntarily choose to serve Hispanic audiences. Such broadcasters should be permitted and encouraged to compete under the same rules as their competitors, and should not be penalized because of their choice of programming format or the ethnicity of their audience.

No of Copies rec'd 2
List ABCDE

18 AUG 2003 RCVD

SAN DIEGO DISTRICT OFFICE

400 EAST GRAVIS STREET
COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 2ND FLOOR
SAN DIEGO, TX 78384
(361) 279-3907 • (361) 279-8117 (FAX)

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT OFFICE

1313 SE MILITARY DRIVE, SUITE 115
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78214-2851
(210) 924-7383 • (210) 927-6222 (FAX)

ROMA DISTRICT OFFICE

301 LINCOLN STREET
ROMA, TX 78584
(956) 847-1111 • (956) 849-3871 (FAX)

Chairman Michael K. Powell
August 12, 2003
Page 2

In light of the substantial benefits arising to the Hispanic community from the proposed merger of Univision and HBC, I ask that this proposed transaction receive all due consideration as promptly as possible in order to make these benefits to the public a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ciro D. Rodriguez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "C" at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail at the end.

Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress