

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

July 7, 2019

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Makan Delrahim
Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Chairman Pai and Assistant Attorney General Delrahim:

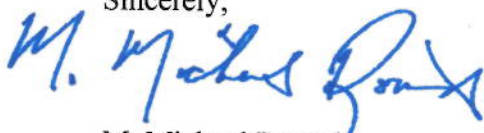
I understand that in May 2018 Gray Television and the Red River Broadcasting Company reached an agreement for KSFY-TV to acquire KDLT-TV in the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, market. Before the acquisition was complete, in July 2018, the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a civil investigative demand (CID) to Gray Television regarding the acquisition.

I understand the DOJ's role in investigating acquisitions between companies within the same market, but this particular review has taken an unusually long time, nearly 15 months. As South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem, then South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley, current South Dakota Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg and Senator John Thune wrote, this merger is in the public interest of South Dakotans. Gray Television has expressed that the merger will increase local news coverage and programming. Further, Gray Television has indicated they plan to open a news bureau in Pierre, South Dakota, our state capital. Opening a news bureau in Pierre will increase public access to government activities.

The length of this review would be uncommon in many markets, but it is particularly uncommon in a market the size of Sioux Falls. Therefore, I encourage you to reach a timely conclusion based upon the law, regulations and your obligations as an Assistant Attorney General.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator