

MEDIA ACTION CENTER

July 13, 2023

Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Application of FOX Television Stations, LLC
for Renewal of License of WTXF-TV, Philadelphia, PA
LMS File No. 0000213362
Facility ID 51568

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

On behalf of Media Action Center (MAC), I am filing this Informal Objection to the license renewal application of WTXF-TV, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Media Action Center is a citizens' volunteer group whose mission is "Putting the Public Back into Broadcasters' Public Interest Obligations." We have engaged in several interactions with the Federal Communications Commission over the years, notably having filed a Petition to Deny the renewal of broadcast license of Entercom Communications Corporation (now Audacy, Inc.) Sacramento radio station KDND for killing a mother of three children in a reckless water drinking stunt. The FCC designated the matter for hearing and Entercom, rather than address the issues relinquished its license for KDND FM.

MAC has read the petition to deny the license renewal application filed by the Media and Democracy Project and strongly supports the well-reasoned arguments presented therein. On July 10, 2023, the Toledo Blade printed an editorial in which it wrote: "The unsubstantiated claims on Fox, allowed by the Murdochs, helped inspire the assault on the Capitol Jan. 6, 2021, as thousands of MAGA faithful gathered to "stop the steal" and keep Congress from certifying election results." The editorial goes on to say: "If the FCC grants license renewals to a station owner that has knowingly and repeatedly reported false news shown to incite violent insurrection against the government, there is no longer any standard of character required by law." A copy of the editorial is attached.

Broadcasters do not own the airwaves, which belong collectively to the people of this country. Licenses are granted under the condition that broadcasters serve "the public interest." It is not the marketplace, but the interests of the people that should determine what is broadcast. Fox has failed in its duty to put the interests of the people it serves above its corporate profits.

When a dishonest corporation broadcasts knowingly false information into our homes under the imprimatur of "news" to foment distrust in valid election results; when that so-called "news" purveyor then purposely and falsely stirs the passions of its viewers who trust that the news broadcast must be true; and when those unsuspecting viewers act on those false statements resulting in violence, death, destruction and the disruption of the orderly operation of our government. the FCC simply *must* take action.

It is the responsibility of the Federal Communications Commission to stand up for the public interest and revoke the licenses of those who possess such low character as to wantonly promote the destruction of our treasured system of government itself for no other reason than corporate greed.

MAC urges the FCC to promptly act on the petition to deny and designate for hearing the renewal application of Fox owned WTXF-TV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Wilson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sue Wilson
Media Action Center

Editorial: Fox, law vs. power

7/10/2023

THE BLADE EDITORIAL BOARD

We are about to find out whether power or the law is paramount in the United States.

At stake is the local TV empire of Fox Broadcasting and the Federal Communications Act, which requires a character assessment to hold the license to operate a station.

Fox owns 29 TV stations in 14 of the top 15 TV markets in the nation. Each one of these stations is an extremely valuable business, required to operate in the public interest as a condition for the FCC license which allows transmission through the public airwaves.

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The Fox-owned station in Philadelphia is up for license renewal. A volunteer citizens group called the Media and Democracy Project is challenging the license over the character clause.

The broadcast license challenge comes from misconduct by sister company Fox News in the mostly unregulated world of cable television. Specifically the \$787 million settlement between Fox News and Dominion Voting Systems for Fox's false reporting alleging programs in the voting machines produced bogus results which made Joe Biden President of the United States.

Discovery in the civil suit against Fox News makes it clear the cable network knew there was no evidence to support these claims but spread them anyway out of fear of losing their audience to other networks even more receptive to the conspiracy thinking.

The top brass at Fox News and Fox Broadcasting are the same, Rupert Murdoch and his son Lachlan.

The unsubstantiated claims on Fox, allowed by the Murdochs, helped inspire the assault on the Capitol Jan. 6, 2021, as thousands of MAGA faithful gathered to "stop the steal" and keep Congress from certifying election results.

If the long-established law behind the FCC character clause has any validity, it must be enforced against Fox Broadcasting where internal documents from the cable news side of the corporation shows that profit comes before truth or the national interest.

Based solely on the facts and the law, Fox does not deserve a license to own a broadcast station.

If the FCC grants license renewals to a station owner that has knowingly and repeatedly reported false news shown to incite violent insurrection against the government, there is no longer any standard of character required by law.

Fox has grown rich and powerful as the network of conservative America and the politicians

they support. Applying the law to Fox will be disputed as a political act rather than an unquestioned outcome driven by fact.

For those who would make America great again, the best way to start is by placing standards based in law ahead of financial and political power.

Fox News paid the \$787 million judgment like it was pocket change. The FCC character challenge against Fox Broadcast would administer a more significant lesson about the abuse of a public trust and the government-licensed use of the public airwaves.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was sent via email to the following:

<p>Ann West Bobeck VP, FCC Legal and Business Affairs Fox Corporation 101 Constitution Avenue, NW Suite 200 West WASHINGTON, DC 20001 bobeck@fox.com</p> <p>Counsel for Fox Television Stations, LLC</p>	<p>Commissioner Nathan Simington Federal Communications Commission 45 L Street NE Washington, DC 20554 nathan.simington@fcc.gov</p>
<p>Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel Federal Communications Commission 45 L Street NE Washington, DC 20554 Jessica.Rosenworcel@fcc.gov</p>	<p>Holly Saurer Chief, Media Bureau Federal Communications Commission 45 L Street NE Washington, DC 20554 holly.sauer@fcc.gov</p>
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<p>Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Federal Communications Commission 45 L Street NE Washington, DC 20554 geoffrey.starks@fcc.gov</p>	

/s/ Sue Wilson

Sue Wilson