aftra withdraws representation of sinclair employees

baltimore, june 28 /prnewswire/ -- on june 21, 1999, the american federation of television and radio artists (aftra) notified the sinclair broadcast group, inc. (nasdaq: sbgi) that it has disclaimed representation of and interest in the employees at sinclair's radio stations, wwl-am and wlmg-fm in new orleans, louisiana. aftra's announcement came just three days prior to a decertification election prompted by employees at the station who expressed a desire to end aftra's representation. aftra has had exclusive bargaining rights for these employees for five decades.

earlier this year, the company experienced similar activity. in february, sinclair employees at radio stations wben and wmqj in buffalo, n.y. petitioned the national labor relations board to hold an election to determine their continued interest in being represented by aftra. the employees elected to decertify representation of aftra by a 2-to-1 margin. in columbus, ohio, sinclair employees at television stations wsys/wtfe recently elected against being represented by cwa/nabets with a 3-to-1 ratio.

with the exception of only about 34 employees at its st. louis locations, sinclair's radio group consists entirely of non-union represented employees. over 93% of sinclair employees have chosen to remain non-union throughout its radio and television stations.

sinclair broadcast group, inc. is a diversified broadcasting company that currently owns or programs 58 television and 51 radio stations. upon completion of all pending transactions, sinclair will own or program 59 television stations in 39 separate markets and 51 radio stations in 10 separate markets. sinclair's television group will reach approximately 24.4% of u.s. television households and includes abc, cbs, fox, nbc, wb, and upn affiliates. sinclair's radio group is one of the top 10 groups in the united states.

source  sinclair broadcast group, inc.

web site:  http://www.sbgi.net

company news on-call:  http://www.prnewswire.com/comp/110203.html or fax, 800-758-5804, ext. 110203

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