

Court Orders FCC to Respond to Sinclair's Petition on Television Duopoly Rules Rehearing

BALTIMORE, June 3 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: SBGI) announced that the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has ordered the FCC to respond to Sinclair's May 17, 2002 petition for partial rehearing, as it pertains to the court's April 2, 2002 remand of the rules limiting the number of television stations that broadcasters can own in a market.

In its April 2, 2002 decision, the court ruled that the "8-voices" rule was 'arbitrary' and remanded it back to the FCC for reconsideration. Justice David Sentelle, one of three judges on the panel, dissented from the remedy imposed by the decision, stating that he believed the rule should be vacated. On May 17, 2002, Sinclair filed a petition with the court for a partial rehearing. In response to this petition, the court ordered the FCC to specifically address whether the court's decision to remand rather than vacate the local television ownership rule was inconsistent with the court's opinion in the FOX Television v. FCC case. In that decision, the court decided to vacate the cable/television cross ownership rules.

Commenting on the ruling, Barry Faber, General Counsel of Sinclair, stated, "We view the court's action as a positive sign that it is seriously considering our motion to vacate the rule. Sinclair continues to believe that the duopoly rule is outdated and looks forward to changes that reflect the current diversity in the market and allows broadcasters to compete effectively."

Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., one of the largest and most diversified television broadcasting companies, will own and operate, program, or provide sales services to 62 television stations in 39 markets, after completion of pending transactions. Sinclair's television group includes FOX, WB, ABC, CBS, NBC, and UPN affiliates and will reach approximately 24.0% of all U.S. television households. For more information, please visit Sinclair's website at www.sbgi.net.

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