

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 15, 2022

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

Given the important role that television and radio broadcasters play in delivering lifesaving news and public affairs programming to their local communities, we are concerned about the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposal to increase broadcasters' regulatory fees by an astonishing *13 percent* this year.

A 13 percent regulatory fee increase on television and radio broadcasters is disproportionate to the FCC's 2 percent budget increase and to the proposed fee adjustments on other FCC supervised entities, some of whose regulatory fees are *decreasing*. While the FCC acknowledges that its regulatory fees per industry are based on the number of full-time equivalent employees staffed to a particular bureau, the statute requires the FCC to adjust the schedule of regulatory fees to take into account factors that are reasonably related to the benefits provided to the fee payor.

Broadcasters provide a free service to the public and are unable to pass these costs on to their audience. Instead, these fees must come out of operational budgets funded by advertising revenues that have not yet recovered from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, any substantial increase the FCC has proposed will have direct impacts on broadcasters' ability to invest in programming or equipment broadcasters require to provide quality local news and information to their communities. For small broadcasters already operating on shoestring budgets, unjustified fee increases can affect whether they are able to cover certain events or, in some cases, stay on the air.

Considering the harm a substantial fee increase would bring, we would like to better understand the FCC's proposal. To that end, we ask you to respond to the following questions as soon as possible:

- Given the FCC's statutory responsibility to adjust its schedule of regulatory fees to take into account factors that are reasonably related to the benefits provided to the fee payor, could the FCC explain what additional benefits have been provided to broadcasters that would justify such a high fee increase?
- Did the Commission consider the inability of many broadcasters to pass along costs to their audiences?

- Why does the Commission's proposed overall fee increase for broadcasters far exceed fee increases for any other industry?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to continuing to work together to support the essential work that broadcasters perform for their local communities.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



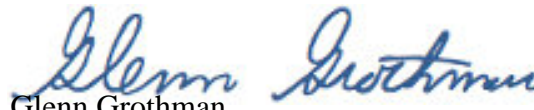
Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



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Glenn Grothman
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Mike Johnson
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Steve Chabot
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Julia Letlow
Member of Congress

Barry Moore
Member of Congress

Randy Weber
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Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress

Mike Flood
Member of Congress

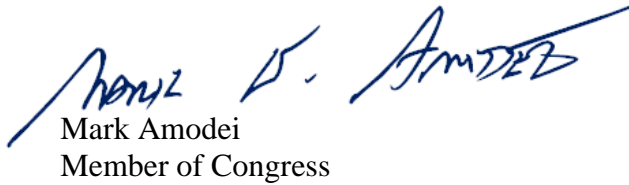
Donald J. Bacon
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



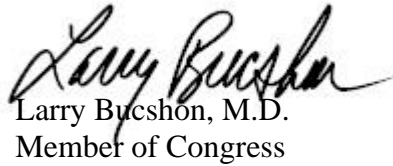
William R. Timmons
Member of Congress



Mark Amodei
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John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



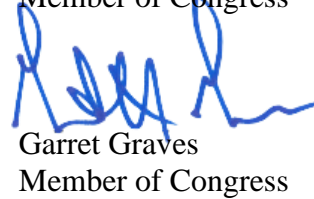
Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



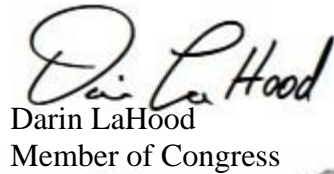
Bob Good
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



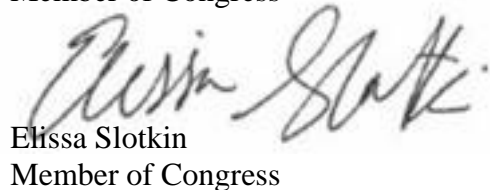
Garret Graves
Member of Congress



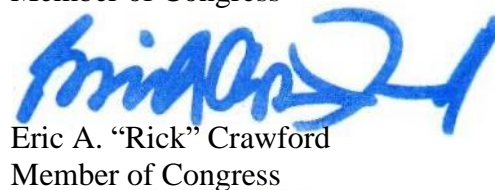
Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



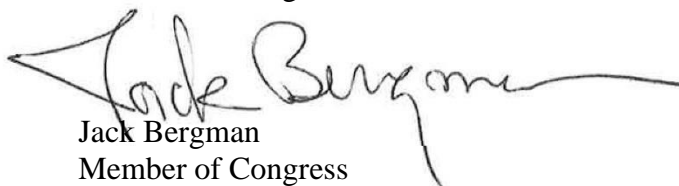
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



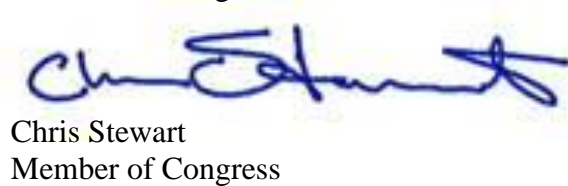
Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



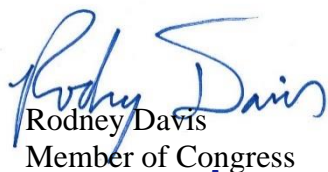
Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
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Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



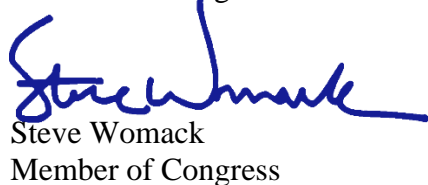
Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



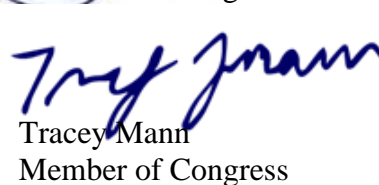
Rodney Davis
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David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



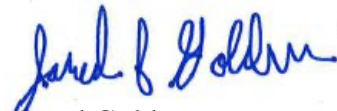
Tracey Mann
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Ron Kind
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Lauren Boebert
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Jared Golden
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James Comer
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Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
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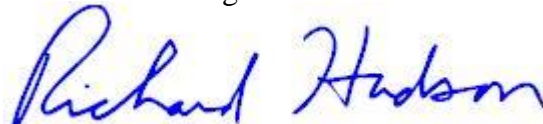
Trey Hollingsworth
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Jeff Van Drew
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Teresa Leger Fernández
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Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Gary Palmer
Chairman, Republican Policy Committee



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



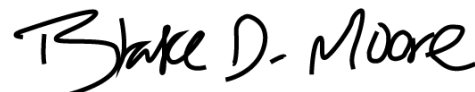
Clay Higgins
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Jake LaTurner
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Tom McClintock
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Kurt Schrader
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Robert B. Aderholt
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Steven Palazzo
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Deborah K. Ross
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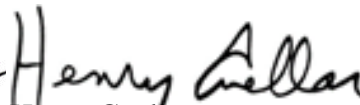
John R. Carter
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Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



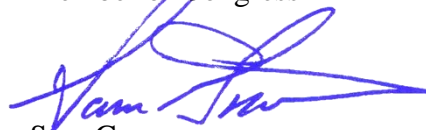
Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



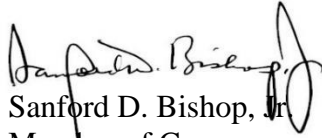
Tim Ryan
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Sam Graves
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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Warren Davidson
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