



**Minority Media &
Telecom Council**

Press Release

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FIFTY ORGANIZATIONS URGE THE WHITE HOUSE TO NOMINATE FCC MEMBERS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Washington, D.C. (April 23, 2013): Fifty national organizations sent a letter to the White House today urging the Obama Administration, when filling positions as chair and commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission, to nominate candidates committed to promoting diversity and inclusion.

The representation of women and minorities in media and telecom ownership, procurement, and employment remains disproportionately low in industries overseen by the FCC. These industries collectively represent one-sixth of our nation's economy. The letter notes that "[m]inority and women's participation in broadcast ownership are particularly at risk, as they continue to decline rapidly." As the nation becomes increasingly diverse, the signators encourage our President to address these issues by nominating leaders "who will assign the highest priority to racial and ethnic minority and women's participation in the nation's most influential industries."

The letter specifies methods of solving our nation's historic racial and gender divide, pointing out that "a coalition of 57 national organizations has on file with the FCC 71 proposals to advance MWBE [Minority and Women Business Enterprises] entrepreneurship and procurement in media and telecom," some of which have been pending before the Commission for more than ten years. Although former FCC Commissioners Michael Copps and Deborah Taylor Tate have encouraged the Commission to vote on these proposals, they remain unaddressed.

The organizations have offered the Administration any assistance it needs "in delivering first class digital citizenship to all Americans[.]"

About MMTC:

The Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (MMTC) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecommunications and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for minority advancement in communications.