

**October 13, 2017**

Mr. Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

We're writing to urge you to uphold the First Amendment and to publicly refuse to entertain any broadcast-license challenges on the basis of the president's disapproval of a network's news coverage.

In the past two days, President Trump has taken to Twitter to attack NBC for critical coverage of his administration and specifically to suggest that the broadcaster's license might be revoked as punishment.

Coming from a president who has repeatedly referred to the news media as the "enemy of the American people," these tweets continue a disturbing pattern in this administration to undercut vital press freedoms.

As an independent agency charged with protecting the public interest and overseeing the public airwaves, the FCC must resist any attempts to co-opt the broadcast-licensing process to suit the president's whims.

Such threats are what you would expect to hear in a dictatorship, not a democracy, and they must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

Above all, the First Amendment declares that the government shall not censor news because it's critical of the government. We strongly urge you to publicly stand against this administration's latest assault on press freedom.

Sincerely,

**Craig Aaron**  
Free Press

**Jeff Ballou**  
National Press Club

**Charlie Braico**  
National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians-CWA

**Bruce D. Brown**

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

**Barbara Cochran**

National Press Club Journalism Institute

**Brandi Collins**

Color Of Change

**Michael J. Copps**

Former FCC Commissioner

Common Cause

**George Freeman**

Media Law Resource Center

**Delphine Halgand**

Reporters Without Borders

**Bernie Lunzer**

The NewsGuild-CWA

**Bryan Mercer**

Media Mobilizing Project

**Alex Nogales**

National Hispanic Media Coalition

**Suzanne Nossel**

PEN America

**Courtney Radsch**

Committee to Protect Journalists

**Akili-Casundria Ramsess**

National Press Photographers Association

**Steven Renderos**

Center for Media Justice

**Chris Shelton**

Communications Workers of America (CWA)

**Trevor Timm**

Freedom of the Press Foundation

**Gloria Tristani**

Former FCC Commissioner

**Tom Wheeler**

Former FCC Chairman

**Beau Willimon**

Writers Guild of America, East

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