February 26, 2019

Hon. Ajit Pai, Chairman
Hon. Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
Hon. Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Hon. Brendan Carr, Commissioner
Hon. Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: In the Matter of La Plata County, Colorado, Petitions for Modification of the Satellite Television Markets of KDVR-TV, KCNC-TV, KMGH-TV, and KUSA-TV, Denver, Colorado / MB Docket No. 16-366, CSR No. 8927-A; MB Docket No. 16-367, CSR No. 8928-A; MB Docket No. 16-368, CSR No. 8929-A; MB Docket No. 16-369, CSR No. 8930-A

Dear Chairman Pai and Commissioners:

As you may know, La Plata County, Colorado is in the Albuquerque direct market area and does not receive Denver or other Colorado broadcast television stations. As an “orphan” county, our citizens suffer from not getting Colorado news coverage and related programming. The County filed the above proceeding in October 2016 requesting a market modification, and that request was granted by the Chief of the Media Bureau on March 1, 2017. However, a number of Albuquerque broadcast stations filed an Application for Review of that decision in late March of 2017, and while the matter is pending, no Denver broadcast stations or satellite companies have been willing to negotiate carriage agreements to facilitate this programming in La Plata County.

We know that this Commission has advocated for all levels of government to act in a timely manner with respect to decisions related to communications matters within their jurisdictions, and we write today to urge you strongly to please take prompt action to deny the Applications for Special Review and affirm the decision of the Media Bureau. The citizens of La Plata County have waited for almost two years for the Commission to act, and we continue to suffer the effects of being an orphan county, as noted in the Bureau Chief’s Report and Order.
Please take action to affirm that decision and help facilitate La Plata County’s access to the Colorado broadcast programming that all other Colorado citizens currently enjoy.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

LA PLATA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Julie Westendorff
Chair

Clyde Church
Vice Chair

Gwen Lachelt
Commissioner

cc: Hon. Michael Bennet, United States Senate
Hon. Cory Gardner, United States Senate
Hon. Scott Tipton, United States House of Representatives
Hon. Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado
Hon. Phil Weiser, Colorado Attorney General
Michelle M. Carey, Bureau Chief, Media Bureau