



PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Joins Coalition in Opposition to Tribune-Sinclair Merger *Coalition Urges FCC to Reject Massive Merger that Will Decrease Consumer Choices and Diverse Media Voices*

BALTIMORE, MD (November 3, 2017) - Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined a multistate group of four attorneys general in filing comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) opposing the proposed merger between the Tribune Media Company (Tribune) and Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. (Sinclair). The attorneys general argue the potential merger will decrease consumer choices and the diversity of voices in the media marketplace.

“This proposed merger will raise the cost of cable television for consumers, and it will reduce their programming choices at the same time,” said Attorney General Frosh. “It is a bad deal for Marylanders.”

The Tribune/Sinclair merger would create the largest television broadcast company in the country. The merged company would own or operate over 200 stations nationwide with the ability to reach more than 70 percent of U.S. television households, far above the statutory limits.

In addition, the attorneys general argue that the proposed merger inappropriately relies on an outdated method known as the UHF Discount for calculating national audience reach that does not reflect the reality of today’s technology, understating the audience reach of a UHF station by 50 percent.

The coalition argues that, at a minimum, the FCC should delay consideration of the merger until the District of Columbia Circuit Court completes its rule of the UHF Discount, which is underway.

Joining Attorney General Frosh in filing today’s comments are the attorneys general of Illinois, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

A copy of the comments [can be found here](#).