



**National
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VIA EMAIL

June 8, 2016

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
US House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anders Crenshaw
Subcommittee Chairman
Financial Services & General Government
US House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
US House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Subcommittee Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
US House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Full Committee Markup - FY 2017 Financial Services and General Government Bill and Report on the Revised Interim Sub allocation of Budget Allocations

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Crenshaw & Ranking Members Lowey and Serrano:

I applaud you for including language in your FY17 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill requiring the Federal Communications Commission to hit the “pause” button on its set-top box proceeding until completion of a study on the proposal’s effect on minority programming. This provision goes a long way toward ensuring diverse and minority television programming remains protected. Therefore, I urge you to defeat any potential amendments that seek to strip the language from the bill during the upcoming full Committee markup.

There is widespread agreement across both sides of the aisle that this proceeding threatens minority programming and vital consumer protections. This is not a partisan issue. More than 150 bipartisan Members of the House of Representatives have weighed in to express concern over various issues with the FCC’s set-top box proposal—including not only minority content concerns, but also copyright, consumer privacy, piracy, advertising, and security. Additionally, in March, I joined with nine other civil rights leaders to urge [FCC Chairman Wheeler to carefully consider](#) how the Commission’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking entitled “Expanding Consumers’ Video Navigation Choices” will affect minority programming and content diversity.

Thank you for your tireless work on behalf of our country.

Sincerely,

Marc H. Morial
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Urban League