THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

December 4, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

I am writing to express the Administration's opposition to legislation that would delay Federal Communications Commission (FCC) action on media ownership rules. The Administration has long supported modernization of media ownership regulations to more accurately reflect the changing media landscape.

Originally established in 1974 to protect the public interest from consolidation of control of news sources, the current ownership rules are significantly outdated in the modern media marketplace. In response, the FCC has crafted changes that appropriately take into account the myriad of news and information outlets that exist today. Modernization of the media ownership rules will help protect the public interest by providing greater financial viability to news and broadcast outlets struggling to survive in this competitive environment.

Further, proposed rule revisions are the product of exhaustive review and consultation with the public. Over the last 18 months, the FCC has held six open hearings and received over 150,000 written and oral comments in its media ownership proceeding. Having fully considered extensive comments from the public and industry stakeholders, the FCC has an opportunity to modernize these outdated rules. Accordingly, the Administration opposes S. 2332 or any other attempt to delay or overturn these revised rules by legislative means.

As always, I remain committed to working with you closely to address these important issues. If you have any questions, please contact me or Nathaniel Wienecke, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

Carlos M. Gutierrez

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation