

August 11, 2009

Mr. Lawrence Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: National Hispanic Media Coalition's request for update of the *The Role of Telecommunications in Hate Crimes*

Dear Mr. Strickling:

We, the undersigned, urge the NTIA to promptly grant the National Hispanic Media Coalition's (NHMC) request that the NTIA update its 1993 report on the *Role of Telecommunications in Hate Crimes*.

As the NHMC acknowledges, hate speech does not only affect Latinos. Many groups have suffered harm at the hands of hate speech, including but not limited to: women, African Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Muslims, Jews, Catholics, gays and lesbians, people with disabilities, and even Caucasian Americans. These harms are twofold: hate speech is a factor in hate crimes and it causes psychological harm to its recipients, especially youth.

The 1993 report is in dire need of updating. Since the early 1990s telecommunications have rapidly evolved. Radio, cable television and the Internet are now permeated with hate speech – such was not the case in 1993. By updating its report, the NTIA will collect current data and information about hate speech and allow citizens access to this data in a transparent manner. It will also help raise awareness about the depth and impact of hate speech in the media.

Respectfully submitted,

Asian American Justice Center (AAJC)
California Common Cause
Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good
Center for Media Justice
Center on Latino and Latina Rights and Equality of the City University of New York School of Law
Common Cause
Cuban American National Council, Inc.
Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting

Florida Public Interest Research Group
Free Press
Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO)
Hispanic/Latinos Anti-Defamation Coalition, SF
Industry Ears
Justice Through Music
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Main Street Project
Media Action Grassroots Network
Media Alliance
Media Mobilizing Project (MMP)
Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF)
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives (NAHFE)
National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP)
National Organization for Women (NOW)
New Mexico Media Literacy Project
Prometheus Radio Project
Public Interest Pictures and Broadcast Blues
Rainbow PUSH Coalition
Reclaim the Media
Texas Media Empowerment Project
The Benton Foundation
The Center for Rural Strategies
The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, Inc.
The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center
The Praxis Project
United Church of Christ, Office of Communication, Inc. (UCC)
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI)
UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc
U.S. Public Interest Research Group
Velvet Revolution
Women In Media & News