



*The Voice of America's Broadband Providers*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\* \* \* PRESS STATEMENT \* \* \***

(Washington) The following statement was released today by ITTA - The Voice of America's Broadband Providers and may be attributed to Genny Morelli, President of ITTA:

“ITTA applauds Tribune Media’s announcement today of its decision to withdraw from its proposed merger with Sinclair Broadcast Group. The merger would have resulted in numerous public interest harms, including harms to retransmission consent leverage and broadcast localism.”

“The proposed transaction would have given Sinclair significantly increased bargaining power in retransmission consent negotiations, further exacerbating the already broken retransmission consent regime that ITTA member companies are faced with when attempting to get access to much-needed video content. Access to content is a key economic driver in increasing broadband deployment in rural America. The merger would have made access to that content even more difficult and costly for ITTA members and other smaller video services providers.”

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ITTA represents communications companies that provide a broad range of high quality wireline and wireless broadband, Internet, voice, and video services to residential and business customers in predominately rural areas across 45 states. For more information, please visit [www.itta.us](http://www.itta.us).