

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2026

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NW Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 26-131
Support for Renewal of KGO-TV (ABC7) Broadcast License

Dear Secretary Dortch,

We write as Members of Congress representing the diverse communities of the San Francisco Bay Area, to express our strong support for the KGO-TV (ABC7) television station, which serves viewers in its nine-county service area including the communities of Napa, Stockton, Santa Rosa, San Jose, Oakland, Santa Cruz. We also oppose the imposition of ideological or political considerations in KGO's broadcast license renewal. We reject the premise of this early renewal process, but fully support the renewal should the Commission continue to pursue it.

While the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) claims this renewal is a part of its investigation into whether Disney's ABC engaged in prohibited practices in its personnel policies,¹ this process has been tainted by animus and ideology from the beginning. Chair Brendan Carr explained that he seeks to follow President Donald Trump's lead in ending "radical and wasteful DEI programs."² However there has been no evidence presented that ABC's personnel policies at issue violated the law. Ideological disagreements about the value of diversity, the importance of equity in the workplace, and the inclusion of underrepresented communities in business operations and programming do not amount to a violation of FCC regulations.³ This early renewal process is merely a smokescreen to pursue President Trump's vindictive agenda to silence minority voices and punish companies that decline to do his bidding.

Indeed, in September 2025, President Trump explained how he understands the license renewal process to be a means of retaliating against political opponents: "They give me only bad publicity, press. I mean, they're getting a license. I would think maybe their license should be taken away."⁴ Chair Carr, echoing this sentiment, has also threatened to take official action

¹ Federal Communications Commission, "FCC's Media Bureau Establishes Pleading Cycle and Ex Parte Procedures for the Early Renewal Applications of the Walt Disney Company's ABC Licenses," MB Docket No. 26-131, May 29, 2026.

² Brendan Carr, Letter to Disney CEO Robert Iger, Mar. 27, 2025.

³ See, e.g., 47 CFR §§ 25.601, 90.168, 73.2080, 76.73.

⁴ Domenico Montanaro, "Kimmel's suspension for Kirk comments sparks furor over free speech and censorship," NPR, Sep. 19, 2025.

against ABC for jokes made on its affiliates' airwaves: "[W]e can do this the easy way or the hard way. These companies can find ways to change conduct, to take action, frankly, on Kimmel, or there's going to be additional work for the FCC ahead."⁵ In January of this year, we were alarmed that Chair Carr, during his testimony before Congress, declined to commit to not using the FCC's licensing authority to politically pressure or punish broadcasters for their editorial decisions.⁶ This has been a deeply disturbing and un-American attempt to censor critics contrary to the First Amendment.

For over 75 years, KGO has been operating in the public interest in our region, offering reliable journalism, indispensable emergency information, and steadfast community engagement that our constituents and viewers rely on, especially in critical times of need. The station demonstrates its commitment to providing trustworthy local and national news and vital emergency information, positioning itself as a leader in delivering timely and lifesaving coverage to viewers.

KGO stands as a reliable source for information when our communities need it most. KGO produces more than 45 hours per week of live, local news and weather reports that keep viewers throughout the nine-county region area informed on breaking news and evolving community stories. The news programming is produced not only through the main studio in San Francisco but also through a robust bureau in San José and a fleet of more than 20 mobile news vans. KGO's live reporting at location sites, from its news helicopter, and via its extensive network of weather and traffic cameras help residents quickly interpret the severity of storms and other emergencies to help maximize their information on public safety issues important to their everyday lives. KGO also delivers critical updates during natural disasters. To take one example, it extensively covered the potential impacts of a series of high-magnitude earthquakes that hit Northern California in December 2024, which triggered a tsunami warning along the California coast within KGO's viewing area. The KGO team provided live coverage, expert guidance, and government information on what to do in the event of an actual tsunami. KGO's dedication to ensuring its station was equipped with team members 24 hours a day, seven days a week, was critical to providing residents with the most up-to-date information.

In addition to breaking news, KGO's local programming is attuned to the everyday needs and concerns of Bay Area residents. The station's journalism covers not only breaking news but also topics at issue in the civic life of our region, including homelessness, transportation, education, and environmental challenges. KGO's daily programming offers more than news and weather, but also consumer advocacy, including through a segment that has aided viewers since its launch in 1993 by helping to resolve consumer issues. We understand that the team that produces this segment receives a high volume of inquiries from viewers who are reaching out for help to consumer issues. KGO informs us that, throughout the years, this team has helped hundreds of viewers recover or save millions of dollars. Additionally, the KGO station has aired hundreds of public service announcements, ensuring the community is aware of pressing public health and safety issues.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Commc'n and Tech., Comm. on Energy and Com., Comm. Transcript at 169 (Jan. 14, 2026) (Brendan Carr answer to Rep. Kevin Mullin).

Beyond daily news and programming, KGO's role as a community partner is equally significant and present in the community it serves. KGO is the official television broadcast partner of the San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade, delivering live coverage through broadcast and livestreaming of this Lunar New Year celebration and other major community events, such as the San Francisco Pride parade, Oakland Black Joy parade, and the Bay to Breakers race. KGO also celebrates and supports civic life by raising awareness of organizations such as the Lighthouse for the Blind, Bay Area Autism Collective, and Friends of Children with Special Needs. KGO's commitment to philanthropy is evident through the work that the team does including coordinating food drives that raise thousands of dollars for Bay Area food banks, and participating in events like the Rock the CASA concert, which supports Court Appointed Special Advocates for foster youth, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Boys & Girls Club of Oakland, and the Alzheimer's Association Bright Night Gala, which raised more than \$1 million for research and supportive services in 2025.

KGO's operations reflect the television station's deep investment and commitment to viewers in the Bay Area. KGO is a trusted local television station that millions of viewers rely on for daily news, traffic, emergency weather alerts, and programming that serves our local community. KGO is a community partner in the ongoing effort to build a better Bay Area, inspiring solutions, fueling civic engagement, and keeping viewers informed.

We strongly support KGO's license renewal for the aforementioned reasons. Simultaneously, we urge the FCC to reconsider its unlawful censorship campaign against ABC and all other political opponents of President Trump immediately.

Sincerely,



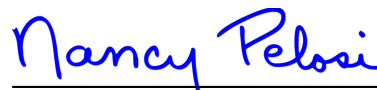
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



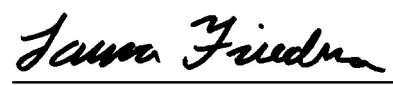
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Josh Harder
Member of Congress