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November 13, 2023

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives,

The Communications Equity and Diversity Council (CEDC) federal advisory committee was chartered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to help it develop policies to achieve greater equity in the telecommunications and electronic mass media industries. It is one of several such committees chartered over the years which have enjoyed the support of all FCC Chairs and Commissioners since their inauguration in 1977. CEDC plays a crucial, nonpartisan role in shaping policies that foster equity and diversity in digital communication services and products across the United States.

Thus, we write to you regarding the upcoming vote in the House of Representatives on bill HR-4664, which, following an amendment to the bill last week, proposes to defund the CEDC. We urge you to oppose this amendment, and we take this opportunity to thank the Members of Congress who have spoken in opposition to the defunding of CEDC.

The above-mentioned advisory committees have enjoyed the support of all FCC chairs and commissioners since their inauguration in 1977. They play a crucial and nonpartisan role in shaping policies that foster equity and diversity in digital communication services and products across the United States. Their mission is making recommendations to the FCC that advance equal opportunities without discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disability. They perform critical work in accelerating the deployment of high-speed Internet access in underserved communities, and advocating for the entry of small businesses into the digital media and technology sectors.

The CEDC's policy proposals are common sense and adhere strictly to constitutional precedents and principles. These proposals have garnered broad consensus across the media and technology industries, with little to no registered opposition. Indeed, several representatives from these industries served on the CEDC. The CEDC also serves a key role in advising the FCC on ways to empower disadvantaged communities in connection with the media, digital news and information, and audio and video programming issues. For example, the CEDC has put forward multiple proposals regarding increasing access to capital for entrepreneurs, which Congress has repeatedly asked the FCC to address.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and urge you to reach out to your colleagues to discuss the critical importance of the CEDC's work. Your support is crucial to ensuring that the CEDC continues to contribute effectively to the growth and diversification of our nation's digital landscape.

Sincerely,

Robert Branson
President & CEO
Multicultural Media, Telecom &
Internet Council (MMTC)

Marc H. Morial
President & CEO
National Urban League

Ron Busby, Sr.
President & CEO
U. S. Black Chambers, Inc.

Clayton Banks
President & CEO
Silicon Harlem

Christopher Wood
Executive Director & Founder
LGBT Tech

Melanie L. Campbell
President & CEO
National Coalition on Black Civic
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President & CEO
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