

# FOIA-2017-00994

**From:** [Karl Frisch](#)  
**To:** [FOIA](#)  
**Subject:** FTC Freedom of Information Act Request (Sinclair - Executive Branch)  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 30, 2017 5:50:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [alliedProgress-logo.png](#)  
[karlssignature.png](#)  
[20170530 - AP Letter - FOIA - FTC \(Sinclair - Exec Branch\) - FINAL.pdf](#)

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May 30, 2017

Office of General Counsel  
Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20580-0001



Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, Allied Progress requests access to and copies of all correspondence involving anyone on the following list of individuals (List A) and certain Federal Trade Commission officials and staff (List B) that includes the words "Sinclair" or "Tribune" at any time since and including January 1, 2016:

#### List A

- Any staff member or official with the White House Office of American Innovation
- Any staff member or official with the National Economic Council
- Any staff member or official with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

#### List B

- Acting Chairman Maureen K. Ohlhausen and her staff
- Commissioner Terrell McSweeney and her staff
- Staff Members working in the Bureau of Competition
- Staff Members working in the Bureau of Economics
- Staff Members working in the Office of Legislative Affairs

"Correspondence" should include, but is not limited to, copies of hardcopy correspondence as well as emails sent by, sent to or carbon copying ("CC") any of the staff members on this list and involving any individual included on "List A."

If possible, I would prefer to receive this information electronically via e-mail at [karl@alliedprogress.org](mailto:karl@alliedprogress.org). If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to call me at [\(855\) 253-7747](tel:(855)253-7747).

#### **Fee Waiver Request**

Allied Progress requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the general public in a

significant way. Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes.

Allied Progress requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding" of government operations and is not "primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." The disclosure of the information sought under this request will document and reveal the operations of the federal government, including how public funds are spent and how officials conduct the public's business.

There is significant public concern over the proposed merger between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media. This request seeks to obtain information on contacts between FTC staff and officials and high ranking officials within the Executive Branch to better inform the public regarding the rigor of regulatory oversight the FTC intends to provide concerning this merger.

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a project of a 501(c)(3) organization, Allied Progress does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in Allied Progress's financial interest. Allied Progress's mission is to give voice to hard-working Americans by standing up to Wall Street and other powerful special interests and holding their allies in Congress and the White House accountable. Allied Progress will use the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. Allied Progress will also make materials it gathers available on our public website.

Accordingly, Allied Progress qualifies for a fee waiver.

### **Conclusion**

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. Additionally, if any documents are withheld based on the Agency's interpretation of any exemption, we request that you provide an index of those documents as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973), cert. denied, 415 U.S. 977 (1974). Specifically, this Vaughn index should describe withheld documents with enough specificity to determine whether the material is exempt under the act and must describe each document or portion withheld.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl Frisch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karl" being more prominent and the last name "Frisch" written in a more compact, connected style.

Karl Frisch  
Executive Director  
Allied Progress

**ALLIED PROGRESS**  
1220 L Street NW, Suite 100/364  
Washington, D.C. 20005-4018  
1-855-ALD-PRGS toll-free  
[alliedprogress.org](http://alliedprogress.org)



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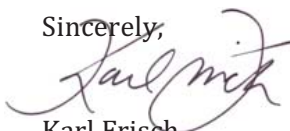
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Sincerely,



Karl Frisch  
Executive Director  
Allied Progress

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<sup>1</sup> Sydney Ember and Michael J. de la Merced, “Sinclair Unveils Tribune Deal, Raising Worries It Will Be Too Powerful,” *The New York Times*, May 8, 2017