

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

**Re: In the Matter of Applications of TEGNA, Inc. (Transferor) and Standard General, L.P and SCGI Holdings III LLC (Transferee), MB Docket No. 22-162**

August 5, 2022

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I write to you today to express support for Standard General's pending acquisition of TEGNA, currently facing review at the Commission.

I recently retired in September 2020 after over 40 years at the KELOLAND Media Group, the last 13 years as Vice-President and General Manager. For almost 21 of those 40 years, I had the privilege of working with and being mentored by the current CEO of Standard Media Group, Deb McDermott.

I was the General Sales Manager at the KELOLAND Media Group in May 1996 when the station was acquired by Young Broadcasting, Inc.

During our time together, from May 1996 to January 2017, I held the positions of General Sales Manager (GSM) for eleven years and Vice-President and General Manager for the ten years. Deb was the person that approved my promotion to VP/GM in 2007. She further provided me with significant career growth and training opportunities. These opportunities helped me become a successful GSM and General Manager for those 21 years together and long after that.

Deb and I accomplished many things together to further the cause of local journalism. Five important ones stand out in my memory.

1. In September 1997, our media group was provided the capital to break ground on the area's first and only Live Doppler Network, bringing life-saving weather radar pictures to the homes across KELOLAND (our branded coverage area). Because of our geographic size, our decision to provide two Doppler radars, was unique at the time making our Live Doppler 2000 Network the first of its kind in the country. A third radar was added in April 2000 to cover the western part of South Dakota. Our first sponsorship was sold for over \$5,000,000 and over the first 25 years, there has been over \$15,000,000 in sponsorships.
2. In 1997, we launched Tradition of Caring in KELOLAND, still in existence today. This program was designed to help non-profit groups apply for public service advertising, with a total of over \$200,000 in airtime available at no cost each year for various organizations. The highlight of this effort was The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences awarding the KELOLAND Media Group a National Emmy Award for Public Service on August 30, 2000.

3. In June 1998, a devastating tornado leveled the small community of Spencer, South Dakota. Immediately, Deb McDermott authorized a station-wide effort and telethon that raised over \$1,000,000 for the Spencer Tornado Relief Fund. Money from the fund helped rebuild the town of Spencer and helped rebuild the lives of the survivors.
4. Due to the recession and other factors, Young Broadcasting went into bankruptcy in 2009. Fortunately for all of us at the time, Deb McDermott and Soo Kim led the company as it emerged from bankruptcy in 2010 as New Young Broadcasting, Inc. Almost immediately we expanded our staff in news and sales, as well as upgrading our facility and receiving a significant capital investment to convert to digital broadcasting.
5. My most significant accomplishment during my tenure as the General Manager of the KELOLAND Media Group began on January 22, 2010 when a massive ice storm toppled the KPLO-TV Tower on Medicine Butte near Reliance, South Dakota in the central part of the state.

This tower was constructed in July 1957 on Medicine Butte, a sacred area for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. We spent significant time with the Lower Brule Tribe to understand the significance of this revered butte. From this mutual understanding, and with the approval of Deb McDermott, Soo Kim, and also the FCC, we made the correct decision to move our new tower construction off Medicine Butte.

The result of this decision was an over \$1,000,000 investment in a taller tower. The goodwill and opportunity to work with our Lower Brule friends made it a very special day when we put the new tower on line three years and ten months later in November 2013.

Through the first acquisition and three mergers, I was able to learn and grow as an industry executive thanks in no small part to Deb McDermott. Her concern for people first and foremost was my greatest lesson. I am asked from time-to-time who my role models were in business and Deb McDermott is the first person I mention.

It is clear that her character and commitment to both viewers and journalism employees is unparalleled. I urge the Commissioners to consider Deb's experience and accomplishments and swiftly approve the Standard General – TEGNA transaction.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Huizenga  
Retired - Vice-President and General Manager

The KELOLAND Media Group  
Sioux Falls, SD