CRTC AM11:32 13MAR'06

PAP

BILL SIKSAY, MP
Burnaby-Douglas

BURNABY
March 6, 2006

PLEASE REPLY TO BURNABY
PLEASE QUOTE: J06-6002129

Diane Rhéaume
Secretary General
CRTC
1 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, QC J8X 4B1

Dear Ms Rhéaume,

I am writing with regard to the application by the Canadian Cable Telecommunications Association (CCTA) for the addition of nine non-Canadian general interest Chinese-language programming services to the digital lists. These services are operated by China International Television Corporation (CITVC).

I am very concerned about this application, given that all nine stations are fully state controlled. Serious concerns have been raised about Chinese media and in particular the state controlled Xinhua News Agency by organizations such as Reporters Without Borders (RSF). RSF released a study of this agency in October 2005 entitled "The World's Biggest Propaganda Agency". I understand that Xinhua is the major news source for the stations involved in this application. I am also concerned about the level of media concentration that the approval of nine stations controlled by one broadcaster represents.

Given these concerns I would ask that that this application be reviewed not only in the written Public Notice process but also with oral Public Hearings. I believe that important issues must be fully and publicly aired in regard to this application.

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I appreciate that the period for written submissions on this application has ended, but would ask that the CRTC immediately initiate an oral Public Hearing process on this application.

I look forward to your reply on this urgent matter.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Siksay

Bill Siksay, MP
Burnaby-Douglas

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