



SINCE 1909

THE NATIONAL
JOURNALISM CENTER

3909 N. MERIDIAN ST.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. 46208

317-927-8000

FAX: 317-920-4789

SPJ@SPJ.ORG

WWW.SPJ.ORG

April 3, 2018

David D. Smith
Executive Chairman
Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.
10706 Beaver Dam Road
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030

Mr. Smith:

We are profoundly disappointed by your comments reported earlier today in New York magazine.

Your attack on legitimate, fact-based print journalism is frustrating. It appears that you are attempting to discredit any and all journalism except that produced by your television stations. That is a serious attack on not only the thousands of hard-working print journalists across this country – including those working at newspapers with conservative editorial pages -- but on the free press as a whole.

You should also know that much of the content read on the air at Sinclair stations likely originated in the print media.

At a time when journalists are constantly being ridiculed and attacked by those in positions of power, we would expect someone in your position, at a media company as large as yours, to realize the difficult job ALL journalists have and to stand in solidarity with them.

We ask that you please rethink your opinion of print journalists or at least acknowledge that just like broadcast journalism, print journalism ranges from small, community news outlets to large, city media organizations. You simply cannot lump them all into one category.

We are available to discuss this and other journalism-related topics if you would like to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rebecca Baker'.

Rebecca Baker
SPJ National President
203-640-3904
rbaker@spj.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alison Bethel McKenzie'.

Alison Bethel McKenzie
SPJ Executive Director
317-920-4780
abmckenzie@spj.org