

September 25, 2025

Perry Sook
Chairman and CEO
Nexstar Media Group, Inc.
545 E. John Carpenter Freeway, Suite 700
Irving, TX 75062

Dear Mr. Sook,

As I'm sure you know, the monologue Jimmy Kimmel delivered on his return to late night television has already been seen nearly 26 million times in the United States and throughout the world.

Sadly, my constituents in Vermont and people in many other parts of the country were denied the opportunity to watch Mr. Kimmel's show when it originally aired on Tuesday night due to Nexstar's unfortunate decision not to air it on the television stations it owns, including WVNY. In my view, that is absolutely unacceptable.

Decisions about what Vermonters and the American people can and cannot watch on television should not be dictated by political pressure from President Donald Trump, his hand-picked Federal Communications Commission Chair (Brendan Carr), or any other government official regardless of their ideology. The role of a broadcaster is to serve the public interest - not politicians who seek to silence and censor critics and comedians who they do not like.

Jimmy Kimmel Live! is a nationally broadcast program that over a million Americans tune into each night. Viewers in Vermont should not be denied access to the same programming that the overwhelming majority of the American people are able to see when it originally airs. Nexstar's continued refusal to air this show undermines the rights of Vermonters to make their own decisions about what they watch and the fundamental freedom of expression. I am writing to urge you to reverse course.

The suggestion that critical or satirical commentary about President Trump and other public figures falls outside the "public interest" is not only deeply troubling, it is un-American. It sets a dangerous precedent for censorship of the media and political speech.

Let's be clear. Being able to publicly criticize or make fun of the President of the United States - whether that person is a Republican, Democrat or an Independent - is what makes America a great country and sets us apart from tin pot dictatorships and authoritarian regimes.

Freedom of expression is vital to American democracy. Broadcasters have a responsibility to protect that freedom - not undermine it as a result of political pressure from President Trump.

Further, I am afraid that Nexstar's decision to cancel Jimmy Kimmel has more to do with getting the Trump Administration to approve its \$6.2 billion merger with Tegna than respecting "the diverse interests of the communities" it serves.

I urge Nexstar to immediately restore Jimmy Kimmel Live! to viewers in Vermont and other parts of the country. Allowing political intimidation to dictate broadcast decisions is simply not acceptable and inconsistent with the values of a free press and a free society.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator