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To: Ways & Means Committee
From: Executive Committee, Maryland-DC-Delaware Broadcasters Association
Date: February 18, 2020
Re: House Bill 949

The Maryland-DC-Delaware Broadcasters Association (“MDCD”) submits this statement regarding House Bill 949, “Election Law – Disclosure of Qualifying Paid Digital Communications – Revisions.”

The MDCD appreciates legislative efforts to combat foreign interference in the State’s elections. The MDCD, however, is concerned that HB 949 retains several of the constitutional infirmities that the federal courts have previously identified in the very law HB 949 seeks to amend.

The MDCD hopes to work with lawmakers should HB 949 progress through the House in order to ensure that the Bill (1) accurately and clearly accounts for the realities of the marketplace, and (2) does not impose unnecessary or inappropriate burdens on online platforms.

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The MDCD is a voluntary, non-profit trade association that advocates for the interests of its member radio and television stations and, more generally, the interests of broadcasting in Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, D.C.