

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP INC

Form 10-Q

August 08, 2018

Table of Contents

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q  
(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT  
OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2018

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT  
OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER: 000-26076

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland  
(State or other jurisdiction of 52-1494660  
Incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

10706 Beaver Dam Road  
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030  
(Address of principal executive office, zip code)

(410) 568-1500  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

None  
(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T

Edgar Filing: SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

(§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such file).

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (check one):

Large accelerated filer	Accelerated filer	Non-accelerated filer	Smaller reporting company	Emerging growth company
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2). Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate the number of share outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock as of the latest practicable date.

Title of each class	Number of shares outstanding as of
	8/7/2018
Class A Common Stock	76,613,152
Class B Common Stock	25,670,684

---

Table of Contents

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.

FORM 10-Q  
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF EQUITY</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>PART II. OTHER INFORMATION</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>ITEM 6. EXHIBITS</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>55</u>



Table of Contents

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3

---

Table of ContentsSINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(in thousands, except share and per share data) (Unaudited)

	As of June 30, 2018	As of December 31, 2017
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,014,718	\$ 681,326
Restricted cash, current	—	313,110
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2,332 and \$2,590, respectively	566,170	566,464
Current portion of program contract costs	19,657	71,387
Income taxes receivable	—	28,150
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	78,214	54,310
Total current assets	1,678,759	1,714,747
Assets held for sale	149,604	—
Program contract costs, less current portion	1,590	3,202
Property and equipment, net	666,636	738,298
Restricted cash, less current portion	1,506	1,504
Goodwill	2,022,073	2,124,033
Indefinite-lived intangible assets	156,654	159,371
Definite-lived intangible assets, net	1,686,263	1,801,670
Other assets	218,458	241,645
Total assets (a)	\$6,581,543	\$ 6,784,470
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$455,463	\$ 370,403
Deferred spectrum auction proceeds	—	84,341
Income taxes payable	21,923	2,503
Current portion of notes payable, capital leases and commercial bank financing	44,191	161,049
Current portion of program contracts payable	46,440	108,053
Total current liabilities	568,017	726,349
Liabilities held for sale	11,310	—
Notes payable, capital leases and commercial bank financing, less current portion	3,864,048	3,887,601
Program contracts payable, less current portion	33,847	41,909
Deferred tax liabilities	441,707	515,236
Other long-term liabilities	77,196	79,009
Total liabilities (a)	4,996,125	5,250,104
Commitments and contingencies (See Note 4)		
Shareholders' Equity:		
Class A Common Stock, \$.01 par value, 500,000,000 shares authorized, 76,576,980 and 76,071,145 shares issued and outstanding, respectively	766	761
Class B Common Stock, \$.01 par value, 140,000,000 shares authorized, 25,670,684 and 25,670,684 shares issued and outstanding, respectively, convertible into Class A Common Stock	257	257
Additional paid-in capital	1,336,251	1,320,298
Retained earnings	285,316	248,845

Edgar Filing: SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(1,423	) (1,423	)
Total Sinclair Broadcast Group shareholders' equity	1,621,167	1,568,738	
Noncontrolling interests	(35,749	) (34,372	)
Total equity	1,585,418	1,534,366	
Total liabilities and equity	\$6,581,543	\$ 6,784,470	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these unaudited consolidated financial statements.

Our consolidated total assets as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 include total assets of variable interest entities (VIEs) of \$114.5 million and \$130.6 million, respectively, which can only be used to settle the obligations (a) of the VIEs. Our consolidated total liabilities as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 include total liabilities of VIEs of \$15.1 million and \$27.0 million, respectively, for which the creditors of the VIEs have no recourse to us. See Note 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

Table of Contents

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
(in thousands, except per share data) (Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
<b>REVENUES:</b>				
Media revenues (a)	\$695,862	\$637,226	\$1,339,513	\$1,244,283
Non-media revenues	34,281	15,008	55,983	34,887
Total revenues	730,143	652,234	1,395,496	1,279,170
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>				
Media production expenses	300,858	269,486	589,407	527,887
Media selling, general and administrative expenses	150,794	127,046	297,693	251,767
Amortization of program contract costs and net realizable value adjustments	24,710	28,896	51,660	59,915
Non-media expenses	31,021	16,076	52,244	34,478
Depreciation of property and equipment	23,117	23,603	50,442	47,584
Corporate general and administrative expenses	29,685	25,051	54,281	45,627
Amortization of definite-lived intangible and other assets	43,117	43,377	86,722	88,931
Gain on asset dispositions, net of impairment	(4,741 )	(150 )	(25,850 )	(53,497 )
Total operating expenses	598,561	533,385	1,156,599	1,002,692
Operating income	131,582	118,849	238,897	276,478
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE):</b>				
Interest expense and amortization of debt discount and deferred financing costs	(92,271 )	(50,959 )	(162,013 )	(108,277 )
Loss from extinguishment of debt	—	—	—	(1,404 )
(Loss) income from equity investments	(17,483 )	1,462	(29,960 )	141
Other income, net	4,184	1,563	7,455	3,259
Total other expense, net	(105,570 )	(47,934 )	(184,518 )	(106,281 )
Income before income taxes	26,012	70,915	54,379	170,197
INCOME TAX BENEFIT (PROVISION)	3,297	(24,880 )	18,925	(53,459 )
NET INCOME	29,309	46,035	73,304	116,738
Net income attributable to the noncontrolling interests	(1,268 )	(1,390 )	(2,139 )	(14,891 )
NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP	\$28,041	\$44,645	\$71,165	\$101,847
Dividends declared per share	\$0.18	\$0.18	\$0.36	\$0.36
<b>EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP:</b>				
Basic earnings per share	\$0.27	\$0.43	\$0.70	\$1.04
Diluted earnings per share	\$0.27	\$0.43	\$0.69	\$1.03
Weighted average common shares outstanding	102,224	102,649	102,062	97,668
Weighted average common and common equivalent shares outstanding	102,986	103,665	102,952	98,707

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these unaudited consolidated financial statements.



(a) See Revenue Recognition within Note 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies for a discussion of the adoption of the new accounting principles for revenue recognition.

5

---

Table of Contents

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.  
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
 (in thousands) (Unaudited)

	Three Months		Six Months Ended	
	Ended		June 30,	
	June 30,			
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net income	\$29,309	\$46,035	\$73,304	\$116,738
Comprehensive income	29,309	46,035	73,304	116,738
Comprehensive income attributable to the noncontrolling interests	(1,268 )	(1,390 )	(2,139 )	(14,891 )
Comprehensive income attributable to Sinclair Broadcast Group	\$28,041	\$44,645	\$71,165	\$101,847

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these unaudited consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF EQUITY  
(in thousands) (Unaudited)

	Sinclair Broadcast Group Shareholders					Accumulated Deficit	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Noncontrolling Interests	Total Equity
	Class A Common Stock Shares	Class B Common Stock Values	Class B Common Stock Shares	Class B Common Stock Values	Additional Paid-In Capital				
BALANCE, December 31, 2016	64,558,207	\$ 646	25,670,684	\$ 257	\$ 843,691	\$(255,804 )	\$( 807 )	\$(30,047 )	\$557,936
Issuance of common stock, net of issuance costs	12,000,000	120	—	—	487,763	—	—	—	487,883
Dividends declared and paid on Class A and Class B Common Stock	—	—	—	—	—	(34,744 )	—	—	(34,744 )
Class A Common Stock issued pursuant to employee benefit plans	435,619	4	—	—	15,203	—	—	—	15,207
Distributions to noncontrolling interests, net	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(18,048 )	(18,048 )
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	101,847	—	14,891	116,738
BALANCE, June 30, 2017	76,993,826	\$ 770	25,670,684	\$ 257	\$ 1,346,657	\$(188,701 )	\$( 807 )	\$(33,204 )	\$1,124,972

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these unaudited consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF EQUITY  
(In thousands) (Unaudited)

	Sinclair Broadcast Group Shareholders					Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Noncontrolling Interests	Total Equity
	Class A Common Stock Shares	Class B Common Stock Values	Class B Common Stock Shares	Class B Common Stock Values	Additional Paid-In Capital				
BALANCE, December 31, 2017	76,071,145	\$ 761	25,670,684	\$ 257	\$ 1,320,298	\$ 248,845	\$ (1,423 )	\$ (34,372 )	\$ 1,534,366
Cumulative effect of adoption of new accounting standard	—	—	—	—	—	2,100	—	—	2,100
Dividends declared and paid on Class A and Class B Common Stock	—	—	—	—	—	(36,794 )	—	—	(36,794 )
Class A Common Stock issued pursuant to employee benefit plans	505,835	5	—	—	15,953	—	—	—	15,958
Distributions to noncontrolling interests, net	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(3,516 )	(3,516 )
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	71,165	—	2,139	73,304
BALANCE, June 30, 2018	76,576,980	\$ 766	25,670,684	\$ 257	\$ 1,336,251	\$ 285,316	\$ (1,423 )	\$ (35,749 )	\$ 1,585,418

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these unaudited consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(in thousands) (Unaudited)

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2018	2017
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Net income	\$73,304	\$116,738
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash flows from operating activities:		
Depreciation of property and equipment	50,442	47,584
Amortization of definite-lived intangible and other assets	86,722	88,931
Amortization of program contract costs and net realizable value adjustments	51,660	59,915
Loss on extinguishment of debt, non-cash portion	—	1,404
Stock-based compensation expense	13,740	11,448
Deferred tax benefit	(73,171)	(8,211)
Gain on asset disposition, net of impairment	(24,235)	(53,497)
Loss from equity investments	30,369	79
Change in assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions:		
Increase in accounts receivable	(2,971)	(26,295)
Increase in prepaid expenses and other current assets	(27,796)	(894)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	85,064	(23,410)
Net change in net income taxes payable/receivable	47,570	(29,661)
Decrease in program contracts payable	(63,916)	(57,152)
Other, net	9,916	14,303
Net cash flows from operating activities	256,698	141,282
<b>CASH FLOWS (USED IN) FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Acquisition of property and equipment	(52,268)	(33,507)
Acquisition of businesses, net of cash acquired	—	(28,329)
Proceeds from the sale of assets	1,005	194,641
Investments in equity investees	(17,996)	(20,690)
Distributions from equity investees	15,175	4,295
Other, net	(3,331)	(13,041)
Net cash flows (used in) from investing activities	(57,415)	103,369
<b>CASH FLOWS (USED IN) FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Proceeds from notes payable and commercial bank financing	2,016	163,089
Repayments of notes payable, commercial bank financing and capital leases	(142,077)	(301,168)
Net proceeds from the sale of Class A Common Stock	—	487,883
Dividends paid on Class A and Class B Common Stock	(36,795)	(34,744)
Distributions to noncontrolling interests	(3,516)	(18,048)
Other, net	1,373	(2,304)
Net cash flows (used in) from financing activities	(178,999)	294,708
NET INCREASE IN CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS, AND RESTRICTED CASH	20,284	539,359
CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS, AND RESTRICTED CASH, beginning of period	995,940	260,184
CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS, AND RESTRICTED CASH, end of period	\$1,016,224	\$799,543

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these unaudited consolidated financial statements.



Table of Contents

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.  
NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

Nature of Operations

Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. (the Company) is a diversified television broadcasting company with national reach and a strong focus on providing high-quality content on our local television stations and digital platforms. The content, distributed through our broadcast platform, consists of programming provided by third-party networks and syndicators, local news, and other original programming produced by us. We also distribute our original programming, and owned and operated network affiliates, on other third-party platforms. Additionally, we own digital media products that are complementary to our extensive portfolio of television station related digital properties. Outside of our media related businesses, we operate technical services companies focused on supply and maintenance of broadcast transmission systems as well as research and development for the advancement of broadcast technology, and we manage other non-media related investments.

Our broadcast distribution platform is a single reportable segment for accounting purposes. It consists primarily of our broadcast television stations, which we own, provide programming and operating services pursuant to agreements commonly referred to as local marketing agreements (LMAs), or provide sales services and other non-programming operating services pursuant to other outsourcing agreements (such as joint sales agreements (JSAs) and shared services agreements (SSAs)), to 191 stations in 89 markets. These stations broadcast 601 channels as of June 30, 2018. For the purpose of this report, these 191 stations and 601 channels are referred to as “our” stations and channels.

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include our accounts and those of our wholly-owned and majority-owned subsidiaries and variable interest entities (VIEs) for which we are the primary beneficiary. Noncontrolling interest represents a minority owner’s proportionate share of the equity in certain of our consolidated entities. All intercompany transactions and account balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

Interim Financial Statements

The consolidated financial statements for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 are unaudited. In the opinion of management, such financial statements have been presented on the same basis as the audited consolidated financial statements and include all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments necessary for a fair statement of the consolidated balance sheets, consolidated statements of operations, consolidated statements of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of equity, and consolidated statements of cash flows for these periods as adjusted for the adoption of recent accounting pronouncements discussed below.

As permitted under the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the consolidated financial statements do not include all disclosures normally included with audited consolidated financial statements and, accordingly, should be read together with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 filed with the SEC. The consolidated statements of operations presented in the accompanying consolidated financial statements are not necessarily representative of operations for an entire year.





Table of Contents

## Variable Interest Entities

In determining whether we are the primary beneficiary of a VIE for financial reporting purposes, we consider whether we have the power to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly impact the economic performance of the VIE and whether we have the obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive returns that would be significant to the VIE. We consolidate VIEs when we are the primary beneficiary.

Third-party station licensees. Certain of our stations provide services to other station owners within the same respective market through agreements, such as LMAs, where we provide programming, sales, operational, and administrative services; and JSAs and SSAs, where we provide non-programming, sales, operational, and administrative services. In certain cases, we have also entered into purchase agreements or options to purchase the license related assets of the licensee. We typically own the majority of the non-license assets of the stations, and in some cases where the licensee acquired the license assets concurrent with our acquisition of the non-license assets of the station, we have provided guarantees to the bank for the licensee's acquisition financing. The terms of the agreements vary, but generally have initial terms of over five years with several optional renewal terms. Based on the terms of the agreements and the significance of our investment in the stations, we are the primary beneficiary when, subject to the ultimate control of the licensees, we have the power to direct the activities which significantly impact the economic performance of the VIE through the services we provide and we absorb losses and returns that would be considered significant to the VIEs. The fees paid between us and the licensees pursuant to these arrangements are eliminated in consolidation. Several of these VIEs are owned by a related party, Cunningham Broadcasting Corporation (Cunningham). See Note 7. Related Person Transactions for more information about the arrangements with Cunningham. See Changes in the Rules of Television Ownership, Joint Sales Agreements, Retransmission Consent Negotiations, and National Ownership Cap under Note 4. Commitments and Contingencies for discussion of recent changes in Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules related to JSAs.

The carrying amounts and classification of the assets and liabilities of the VIEs mentioned above, which have been included in our consolidated balance sheets for the periods presented, were as follows (in thousands):

	As of June 30, 2018	As of December 31, 2017
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Accounts receivable	\$17,865	\$ 19,566
Other current assets	1,918	8,937
Total current assets	19,783	28,503
Assets held for sale	535	—
Program contract costs, less current portion	257	822
Property and equipment, net	5,804	6,215
Goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets	15,039	15,064
Definite-lived intangible assets, net	70,659	74,442
Other assets	2,374	5,601
Total assets	\$114,451	\$ 130,647
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Other current liabilities	\$15,268	\$ 23,564

Edgar Filing: SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Notes payable, capital leases and commercial bank financing, less current portion	19,625	23,217
Program contracts payable, less current portion	5,992	11,213
Other long-term liabilities	650	650
Total liabilities	\$41,535	\$ 58,644

11

---

## Table of Contents

The amounts above represent the consolidated assets and liabilities of the VIEs described above, for which we are the primary beneficiary, and have been aggregated as they all relate to our broadcast business. Excluded from the amounts above are payments made to Cunningham under the LMAs and certain outsourcing agreements, which are treated as a prepayment of the purchase price of the stations, and capital leases between us and Cunningham, which are eliminated in consolidation. The total payments made under these LMAs and certain JSAs, which are excluded from the liabilities above, were \$45.7 million and \$44.0 million as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively. The total capital lease liabilities, net of capital lease assets, which are excluded from the above, were \$4.5 million as of both June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017.

Total liabilities associated with certain outsourcing agreements and purchase options with certain VIEs excluded from above were \$117.8 million and \$116.5 million as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively, as these amounts are eliminated in consolidation. The assets of each of these consolidated VIEs can only be used to settle the obligations of the VIE. As of June 30, 2018, all of the liabilities are non-recourse to us except for debt of certain VIEs. See Debt of variable interest entities under Note 3. Notes Payable and Commercial Bank Financing for further discussion. The risk and reward characteristics of the VIEs are similar.

Other investments. We have several investments which are considered VIEs. However, we do not participate in the management of these entities, including the day-to-day operating decisions or other decisions which would allow us to control the entity, and therefore, we are not considered the primary beneficiary of these VIEs. We account for these entities using the equity method of accounting; at cost, less impairment plus observable price changes; or at fair value.

The carrying amounts of our investments in these VIEs for which we are not the primary beneficiary as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 were \$91.3 million and \$115.7 million, respectively, and are included in other assets on our consolidated balance sheets. Our maximum exposure is equal to the carrying value of our investments. The income and loss related to these investments are recorded in income from equity investments on our consolidated statements of operations. We recorded a loss for both the three and six months ended June 30, 2018 of \$14.5 million and \$23.5 million, respectively, and income for both the three and six months ended June 30, 2017 of \$3.8 million and \$3.5 million, respectively.

## Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses in the consolidated financial statements and in the disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

## Table of Contents

### Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued guidance on revenue recognition for revenue from contracts with customers, Accounting Standards Codification Topic 606 (ASC 606). This guidance requires an entity to recognize the amount of revenue to which it expects to be entitled for the transfer of promised goods or services to customers and will replace most existing revenue recognition guidance when it becomes effective. The standard permits the use of either the retrospective or cumulative effect transition method. Since Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2014-09 was issued, several additional ASUs have been issued and incorporated within ASC 606 to clarify various elements of the guidance. We adopted this guidance retrospectively during the first quarter of 2018. The impact of the adoption did not have a material impact on our station advertising or distribution revenue. Under the new standard, certain barter revenue and expense related to syndicated programming is no longer recognized. See Revenue Recognition below for more information on the adoption.

In January 2016, the FASB issued new guidance which addresses certain aspects of recognition, measurement, presentation, and disclosure of financial instruments. The new guidance requires entities to measure equity investments (except those accounted for under the equity method of accounting or those that resulted in consolidation of the investee) at fair value, with changes in fair value recognized in net income. The new standard is effective for the interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017. We adopted this guidance during the first quarter of 2018. The impact of the adoption did not have a material impact on our financial statements. As of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, equity investments without a readily determinable fair value measured utilizing the measurement alternative at cost, less impairment plus observable price changes were \$30.9 million and \$32.3 million, respectively. During the three and six months ended June 30, 2018, there were no adjustments to the carrying amount of investments accounted for using the measurement alternative. We also had other investments recorded at fair value at June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 of \$18.5 million and \$12.2 million, respectively. As a result of the adoption of this guidance, we recorded a cumulative effect adjustment to retained earnings of \$2.1 million for these investments, within our consolidated statement of equity.

In February 2016, the FASB issued new guidance related to accounting for leases, which requires the assets and liabilities that arise from leases to be recognized on the balance sheet. Currently, only capital leases are recorded on the balance sheet. This update will require the lessee to recognize a lease liability equal to the present value of the lease payments and a right-of-use asset representing its right to use the underlying asset for the lease term for all leases longer than 12 months. For leases with a term of 12 months or less, a lessee is permitted to make an accounting policy election, by class of underlying asset, not to recognize lease assets and liabilities and recognize the lease expense for such leases, generally on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The new standard is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018. Early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the impact of this guidance on our consolidated financial statements.

In August 2016, the FASB issued new guidance related to the classification of certain cash receipts and cash payments. The new standard includes eight specific cash flow issues with the objective of reducing the existing diversity in practice as to how cash receipts and cash payments are represented in the statement of cash flows. In November 2016, the FASB issued new guidance related to the classification and presentation of changes in restricted cash on the statement of cash flows. This new guidance requires that the statement of cash flows explain changes during the period in the total of cash, cash equivalents, and amounts generally described as restricted cash or restricted cash equivalents. We adopted this guidance retrospectively during the first quarter of 2018. For the six months ended June 30, 2017, the adoption of this guidance resulted in an increase in cash flows from investing and financing activities of \$2.0 million and \$1.5 million, respectively.

In January 2017, the FASB issued guidance which clarifies the definition of a business with additional guidance to assist entities with evaluating whether transactions should be accounted for as acquisitions (or disposals) of assets or

businesses. The new standard should be applied prospectively and is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017. We adopted this guidance during the first quarter of 2018. The impact of the adoption did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In March 2018, the FASB issued guidance, effective in the first quarter of 2018, for situations where the accounting under Accounting Standards Codification Topic 740 is incomplete for certain income tax effects of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) upon issuance of an entity's financial statements for the reporting period in which the TCJA was enacted. Any provisional amounts or adjustments to provisional amounts as a result of obtaining, preparing, or analyzing additional information about facts and circumstances related to the provisional amounts should be included in income (loss) from continuing operations as an adjustment to income tax expense in the reporting period the amounts are determined. As discussed in Income Taxes below, adjustments to the provisional amounts that are identified within a subsequent measurement period of up to one year from the enactment date will be included as an adjustment to tax expense from continuing operations in the period the amounts are determined.

Table of Contents

## Revenue Recognition

On January 1, 2018, we adopted ASC 606 using the retrospective adoption method. The following table presents the effects of adoption on our consolidated financial statements for the comparative periods presented (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended June 30, 2017			Six Months Ended June 30, 2017		
	As Reported	Adoption of ASC 606	As Adjusted	As Reported	Adoption of ASC 606	As Adjusted
Revenues realized from station barter arrangements (a)	\$32,460	\$(27,055)	\$5,405	\$60,030	\$(50,055)	\$9,975
Expenses realized from barter arrangements (b)	\$27,550	\$(27,055)	\$495	\$50,795	\$(50,055)	\$740
Operating income	\$118,849	\$—	\$118,849	\$276,478	\$—	\$276,478
Net income	\$44,645	\$—	\$44,645	\$101,847	\$—	\$101,847
Basic EPS	\$0.43	\$—	\$0.43	\$1.04	\$—	\$1.04
Diluted EPS	\$0.43	\$—	\$0.43	\$1.03	\$—	\$1.03

(a) The remaining balance in the "as adjusted" column relates to trade revenue, which was unaffected by the adoption and has been reclassified to media revenue.

(b) The remaining balance in the "as adjusted" column relates to trade expense, which was unaffected by the adoption and has been reclassified to media production expense.

The following table presents our revenue disaggregated by type and segment (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended June 30, 2018			June 30, 2017		
	Broadcast	Other	Total	Broadcast	Other	Total
Advertising revenue, net of agency commissions	\$338,204	\$20,918	\$359,122	\$328,252	\$14,394	\$342,646
Distribution revenue	291,931	27,527	319,458	251,730	26,989	278,719
Other media and non-media revenues	12,144	39,419	51,563	10,985	19,884	30,869
Total revenues	\$642,279	\$87,864	\$730,143	\$590,967	\$61,267	\$652,234

  

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2018			June 30, 2017		
	Broadcast	Other	Total	Broadcast	Other	Total
Advertising revenue, net of agency commissions	\$637,116	\$38,334	\$675,450	\$638,323	\$22,774	\$661,097
Distribution revenue	579,056	54,762	633,818	500,792	53,838	554,630
Other media and non-media revenues	22,000	64,228	86,228	21,721	41,722	63,443
Total revenues	\$1,238,172	\$157,324	\$1,395,496	\$1,160,836	\$118,334	\$1,279,170

Advertising Revenue, net of agency commissions. We generate advertising revenue primarily from the sale of advertising spots/impressions on our broadcast television and digital platforms. Advertising revenue is recognized in the period in which the advertising spots/impressions are delivered. In arrangements where we provide audience ratings guarantees; to the extent that there is a ratings shortfall, we will defer a portion of revenue until the ratings shortfall is settled. The term of our advertising arrangements is generally less than one year and the timing between

when an advertisement is aired and when payment is due is not significant. In certain circumstances, we require customers to pay in advance; payments received in advance of satisfying our performance obligations are reflected as deferred revenue.

## Table of Contents

**Distribution Revenue.** The Company generates distribution revenue through fees received from multi-channel video programming distributors (MVPDs) and virtual MVPDs for the right to distribute our stations and other properties on their respective distribution platforms. We have determined that these arrangements represent licenses of intellectual property. Distribution arrangements are generally governed by multi-year contracts and the underlying fees are based upon a monthly amount per subscriber. We recognize revenue associated with these licensing arrangements when our customers distribute our stations and other properties on their respective distribution platforms, which is when our performance obligation has been satisfied. The term between invoicing and when payment is due is not significant.

**Practical Expedients and Exemptions.** We expense sales commissions when incurred because the period of benefit for these costs is one year or less. These costs are recorded within media selling, general and administrative expenses. In accordance with ASC 606, we do not disclose the value of unsatisfied performance obligations for (i) contracts with an original expected length of one year or less and (ii) distribution arrangements which are accounted for as a sales/usage based royalty.

**Arrangements with Multiple Performance Obligations.** Our contracts with customers may include multiple performance obligations. For such arrangements, we allocate revenues to each performance obligation based on its relative standalone selling price which is generally based on the prices charged to customers.

**Deferred Revenues.** We record deferred revenues when cash payments are received or due in advance of our performance, including amounts which are refundable. Deferred revenues for the periods ended June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 were \$84.0 million and \$49.5 million, respectively. The increase in deferred revenues for the six months ended June 30, 2018 was primarily driven by amounts received or due in advance of satisfying our performance obligations, offset by \$21.5 million of revenues recognized that were included in the deferred revenues balance as of December 31, 2017. Deferred revenues for the periods ended June 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 were \$32.3 million and \$31.7 million, respectively. The increase in deferred revenues for the six months ended June 30, 2017 was primarily driven by amounts received or due in advance of satisfying our performance obligations offset by \$13.7 million of revenues recognized that were included in the deferred revenues balance as of December 31, 2016.

## Income Taxes

Our income tax provision for all periods consists of federal and state income taxes. The tax provision for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 is based on the estimated effective tax rate applicable for the full year after taking into account discrete tax items and the effects of the noncontrolling interests. We provide a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets if we determine that it is more likely than not that some or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. In evaluating our ability to realize net deferred tax assets, we consider all available evidence, both positive and negative, including our past operating results, tax planning strategies, and forecasts of future taxable income. In considering these sources of taxable income, we must make certain judgments that are based on the plans and estimates used to manage our underlying businesses on a long-term basis. A valuation allowance has been provided for deferred tax assets related to a substantial portion of our available state net operating loss (NOL) carryforwards, based on past operating results, expected timing of the reversals of existing temporary book/tax basis differences, alternative tax strategies, and projected future taxable income.

Our effective income tax rate for the three months ended June 30, 2018 was less than the statutory rate primarily due to \$5.2 million federal tax credits related to investments in sustainability initiatives and a \$4.2 million state benefit related to a change in apportionment estimates on recognition of previously deferred tax gain from the sale of certain broadcast spectrum in connection with the Broadcast Incentive Auction, as discussed in Note 2. **Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets.** Our effective income tax rate for the six months ended June 30, 2018 was less than the statutory rate primarily due to a \$17.7 million permanent tax benefit recognized from an IRS tax ruling on the treatment of the gain from the sale of certain broadcast spectrum in connection with the Broadcast Incentive Auction,



as discussed in Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets, and \$6.3 million federal tax credits related to investments in sustainability initiatives. Our effective income tax rate for the three and six months ended June 30, 2017 approximated the statutory rate.

Pursuant to the guidance within SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 118 (SAB 118), as of June 30, 2018, the Company continues to analyze certain aspects of the TCJA and refine its assessment. The ultimate impact of the TCJA differ from the provisional amounts recorded by the Company at December 31, 2017 due to its continued analysis or further regulatory guidance that may be issued as a result of the TCJA. Pursuant to SAB 118, adjustments to the provisional amounts that are identified within a subsequent measurement period of up to one year from the enactment date will be included as an adjustment to tax expense from continuing operations in the period the amounts are determined.

Table of Contents

## Network Affiliation Agreements

On May 8, 2018, we entered into an agreement with Fox Broadcasting Company for the renewal of our Fox affiliates. The agreement expires on December 31, 2020. In the event that the Tribune acquisition discussed in Pending Acquisitions within Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets does not close before December 31, 2018, Fox will have a right to terminate this agreement with 30 days notice.

## Subsequent Events

In August 2018, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.18 per share, payable on September 17, 2018 to holders of record at the close of business on August 31, 2018.

## Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to prior years' consolidated financial statements to conform to the current year's presentation.

## 2. ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSITIONS OF ASSETS:

## Acquisitions

Bonten. On September 1, 2017, we acquired the stock of Bonten Media Group Holdings, Inc. (Bonten) and Cunningham acquired the membership interest of Esteem Broadcasting LLC for an aggregate purchase price of \$240.0 million plus a working capital adjustment, excluding cash acquired, of \$2.2 million accounted for as a business combination under the acquisition method of accounting. As a result of the transaction, we added 14 television stations in 8 markets: Tri-Cities, TN/VA; Greenville/New Bern/Washington, NC; Chico/Redding, CA; Abilene/Sweetwater, TX; Missoula, MT; Butte/Bozeman, MT; San Angelo, TX; and Eureka, CA. Cunningham assumed the joint sales agreement under which we will provide services to 4 additional stations. The transaction was funded with cash on hand. The acquisition will expand our regional presence in several states where we already operate and help us bring improvements to small market stations.

The following table summarizes the allocated fair value of acquired assets and assumed liabilities (in thousands):

Accounts receivable	\$14,536
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	699
Program contract costs	988
Property and equipment	27,295
Definite-lived intangible assets	161,936
Indefinite-lived intangible assets	425
Other assets	3,609
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(8,846 )
Program contracts payable	(988 )
Deferred tax liability	(66,158 )
Other long term liabilities	(12,265 )
Fair value of identifiable, net assets acquired	121,231
Goodwill	120,921
Total purchase price, net of cash acquired	\$242,152

The preliminary purchase price allocation presented above is based upon management's estimate of the fair value of the acquired assets and assumed liabilities using valuation techniques including income, cost, and market approaches. The fair value estimates are based on, but not limited to, expected future revenue and cash flows, expected future growth rates, and estimated discount rates. The allocation is preliminary pending a final determination of the fair value of the assets and liabilities.

Table of Contents

During the six months ended June 30, 2018, we made certain measurement period adjustments to the initial Bonten purchase price allocation resulting in reclassifications between certain non-current assets and liabilities, including an increase to goodwill of \$1.5 million.

The definite-lived intangible assets of \$161.9 million are comprised of network affiliations of \$53.3 million and customer relationships of \$108.6 million. These intangible assets will be amortized over a weighted average useful life of 15 and 14 years for network affiliations and customer relationships, respectively. Acquired property and equipment will be depreciated on a straight-line basis over the respective estimated remaining useful lives. Goodwill is calculated as the excess of the consideration transferred over the fair value of the identifiable net assets acquired and represents the future economic benefits expected to arise from other intangible assets acquired that do not qualify for separate recognition, including assembled workforce and noncontractual relationships, as well as expected future synergies. We expect that goodwill deductible for tax purposes will be approximately \$5.6 million. Net revenues and operating income of the Bonten stations on our consolidated statements of operations were \$23.4 million and \$4.1 million, respectively, for the three months ended June 30, 2018 and \$45.4 million and \$5.7 million, respectively, for the six months ended June 30, 2018.

**Other 2017 Acquisitions.** During 2017, we acquired certain media assets for an aggregated purchase price of \$27.4 million, less working capital of \$2.7 million. The transaction was funded with cash on hand.

**Pending Acquisitions.**

In May 2017, we entered into a definitive agreement to acquire the stock of Tribune Media Company (Tribune). Under the terms of the agreement, Tribune stockholders will receive \$35.00 in cash and 0.23 shares of Sinclair Class A common stock for each share of Tribune Class A common stock and Class B common stock they own. As part of this acquisition we would assume approximately \$1.1 billion of outstanding debt held by Tribune. Tribune owns or operates 42 television stations in 33 markets, cable network WGN America, digital multicast network Antenna TV, minority stakes in the TV Food Network, ThisTV, and CareerBuilder, and a variety of real estate assets. Tribune's stations consist of 14 FOX, 12 CW, 6 CBS, 3 ABC, 2 NBC, 3 MyNetworkTV affiliates, and 2 independent stations. In October 2017, Tribune shareholders approved the merger agreement and bondholders consented to the assignment of the notes under the change of control. In April and May 2018, in order to obtain necessary governmental approval for the acquisition of Tribune, and for other business purposes, we entered into definitive agreements with third parties to divest 14 Tribune television stations in 14 markets and the stations discussed in Assets and Liabilities Held for Sale below. The divestitures are contingent upon the closing of the Tribune acquisition and are expected to close concurrent with the Tribune acquisition. We expect to fund the purchase price through a combination of cash on hand and debt financing. On July 19, 2018, the FCC released a Hearing Designation Order (HDO) to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with respect to the Company's acquisition of Tribune. We cannot predict the timeframe for completion or the outcome of the ALJ hearing. In addition, in light of the release of the HDO, there can be no assurance that the transaction with Tribune will be consummated. The failure to complete the transaction may adversely affect Sinclair's business and operations. See Litigation and other legal matters within Note 4. Commitments and Contingencies for further discussion.

For the three and six months ended June 30, 2018, we incurred \$5.2 million and \$9.9 million, respectively, of costs in connection with this acquisition, primarily related to legal and other professional services, which we expensed as incurred and classified as corporate general and administrative expenses on our consolidated statements of operations. As of June 30, 2018, we capitalized approximately \$12.1 million in costs associated with the financing of the acquisition. In the event that the acquisition does not close, these capitalized fees would be recognized as expense. See Assets and Liabilities Held for Sale below for further discussion of divestitures related to this transaction. See Note 3. Notes Payable and Commercial Bank Financing for further discussion on debt financing.



Table of Contents

Dispositions

Broadcast Incentive Auction. Congress authorized the FCC to conduct so-called “incentive auctions” to auction and re-purpose broadcast television spectrum for mobile broadband use. Pursuant to the auction, television broadcasters submitted bids to receive compensation for relinquishing all or a portion of its rights in the television spectrum of their full-service and Class A stations. Low power stations were not eligible to participate in the auction and are not protected and therefore may be displaced or forced to go off the air as a result of the post-auction repacking process. We received total proceeds of \$310.8 million from the auction.

For the six months ended June 30, 2018, we recognized a gain of \$83.3 million which is included within gain on asset dispositions, net of impairment on our consolidated statements of operations. This gain relates to the auction proceeds associated with one market where the underlying spectrum was vacated during the first quarter of 2018. The results of the auction are not expected to produce any material change in operations of the Company as there is no change in on air operations.

In the repacking process associated with the auction, the FCC has reassigned some stations to new post-auction channels. We do not expect reassignment to new channels to have a material impact on our coverage. We have received notification from the FCC that 98 of our stations have been assigned to new channels. The legislation authorizing the incentive auction provided the FCC with a \$1.75 billion fund to reimburse reasonable costs incurred by stations that are reassigned to new channels in the repack. The 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act appropriated an additional \$600 million to the fund for the fiscal year 2018, and an additional \$400 million for the fiscal year 2019. The 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act also enlarged the number of stations eligible to receive reimbursement to include low power television stations and television translator stations. We expect that the reimbursements from the fund will cover the majority of our expenses related to the repack. During the three and six months ended June 30, 2018, capital expenditures related to the spectrum repack were \$8.3 million and \$11.7 million, respectively.

Assets and Liabilities Held for Sale. We classify assets and liabilities separately on our consolidated balance sheets at the lower of carrying value or fair value less costs to sell when the criteria for held for sale classification are met. Once assets are classified as held for sale, we do not record depreciation or amortization expense.

We agreed to sell the assets of certain consolidated television stations within our broadcast segment including WXLV in Greensboro, NC; WRLH in Richmond, VA; WOLF/WQMY/WSWB in Wilkes-Barre, PA; KOKH in Oklahoma City, OK; and KDSM in Des Moines, IA. The sale is part of Sinclair’s larger acquisition of Tribune, in order to obtain necessary governmental approval of the Tribune transaction and for other business purposes. The sale of these stations is contingent upon the closing of the Tribune acquisition. See Pending Acquisitions within Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets for further discussion of Tribune acquisition. The assets and liabilities of these stations met the criteria for held for sale classification as of June 30, 2018 and are classified as held for sale on our consolidated balance sheet.

We have also classified one of our consolidated real estate development projects as held for sale based upon a pending transaction which is currently expected to close in 2018. During the first quarter the carrying value of these assets have been adjusted to fair value less costs to sell which resulted in an impairment of approximately \$63.0 million which is reflected in gains/losses on asset dispositions, net of impairments within our statement of operations. During the second quarter, the Company recorded a \$3.4 million correcting adjustment to reduce the impairment to \$59.6 million. This adjustment was not material to either the first quarter or second quarter results. The fair value of the real estate investment was determined based on both observable and unobservable inputs, including the expected sales price as supported by discounted cash flow model. Due to uncertainties in the estimation process, actual results could differ from the estimates used in our analysis.

Edgar Filing: SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

As of June 30, 2018, the major classes of assets and liabilities reported as held for sale on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets are shown below (in thousands):

Current assets	\$1,234
Property and equipment	14,651
Goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets	104,897
Definite-lived intangible assets	28,788
Other non-current assets	34
Assets held for sale	\$149,604
Current liabilities	\$3,668
Non-current liabilities	7,642
Liabilities held for sale	\$11,310

18

---

Table of Contents

3. NOTES PAYABLE AND COMMERCIAL BANK FINANCING:

Incremental Term B Facility related to Tribune acquisition

In connection with the pending acquisition of Tribune, discussed in Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets, in May 2017, we entered into financing commitment letters with certain financial institutions (the “Committed Lenders”). In December 2017, the Term Loan B commitments provided in the commitment letters were syndicated, providing \$3.7 billion of Term B loans to be issued and drawn at closing of the acquisition, which mature in 2024 and are priced at LIBOR plus 2.50%, under our Bank Credit Agreement, which will be amended at closing. The financing and amendment of our Bank Credit Agreement is contingent upon the closing of the Tribune acquisition. We began to expense a ticking fee on undrawn amounts under the new term B loans beginning on January 12, 2018 of 1.25% for the first 30 days, 2.50% for the next 60 days, and LIBOR plus 2.50% thereafter. Ticking fees expensed were \$39.3 million and \$56.3 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018, respectively, and are included in interest expense on our consolidated statements of operations. The existing commitments expire on August 8, 2018. We are working with the Committed Lenders to extend the financing commitments. See Litigation and other legal matters under Note 4. Commitments and Contingencies for further discussion of the Tribune acquisition.

Notes payable and capital leases to affiliates

The current portion of notes payable, capital leases, and commercial bank financing on our consolidated balance sheets includes notes payable and capital leases to affiliates of \$2.0 million and \$1.7 million, net of deferred financing cost, as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017. Notes payable, capital leases, and commercial bank financing, less current portion, on our consolidated balance sheets includes long-term notes payable and capital leases to affiliates of \$11.3 million and \$12.5 million, net of deferred financing cost, as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively.

Bank Credit Agreement

Approximately \$111.4 million of Term Loan A-1 debt under the Bank Credit Agreement matured on April 9, 2018 and was paid with cash on hand.

Debt of variable interest entities

The proceeds of the outstanding debt of our consolidated VIEs were used to purchase the license assets of certain stations. See Variable Interest Entities under Note 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies for more information. We have jointly and severally, unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed the debt of the VIEs, as a primary obligor, including the payment of all unpaid principal of and interest on the loans. We guaranteed \$67.5 million and \$62.3 million of debt, net of deferred financing costs, related to VIEs as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively, of which \$26.4 million and \$29.3 million, net of deferred financing costs, is included on our consolidated balance sheets as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively.

4. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES:

Litigation and other legal matters

We are a party to lawsuits and claims from time to time in the ordinary course of business. Actions currently pending are in various stages and no material judgments or decisions have been rendered by hearing boards or courts in connection with such actions. After reviewing developments to date with legal counsel, our management is of the



opinion that none of our pending and threatened matters is material.

On December 21, 2017, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture proposing a \$13.4 million fine for alleged violations of the FCC's sponsorship identification rules by the Company and certain of its subsidiaries. Based on a review of the current facts and circumstances, management has provided for what is believed to be a reasonable estimate of the loss exposure for this matter. We have responded to dispute the Commission's findings and the proposed fine; however, we cannot predict the outcome of any potential FCC action related to this matter. We do not believe that the ultimate outcome of this matter will have a material effect on the Company's financial statements.

## Table of Contents

As of August 7, 2018, the Company is aware of three putative class action lawsuits filed in United States District Court against the Company, Tribune Media Company, Tribune Broadcasting Company, LLC and other defendants, including some that are unnamed. The lawsuits allege that the defendants conspired to fix prices for commercials to be aired on broadcast television stations throughout the United States, in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act. The lawsuits seek damages, attorney's fees, costs and interest, as well as enjoinderment from adopting practices or plans which would restrain competition in a similar manner as alleged in the lawsuits. The Company believes the lawsuits may have been related to media reports of a Civil Investigative Demand (CID) the Company received from the Department of Justice earlier this year, which regarded an investigation to determine whether there had been a violation of the Sherman Act by sharing of pace data within the industry. The CID indicated that it was issued in connection with the Company's acquisition of Tribune. The Company believes these class action lawsuits are without merit and intends to vigorously defend against the allegations.

On July 19, 2018, the FCC released a Hearing Designation Order (HDO) to commence a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with respect to the Company's acquisition of Tribune, discussed under Pending Acquisitions within Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets. The HDO directs the FCC's Media Bureau to hold in abeyance all other pending applications and amendments thereto related to the proposed merger until the issues that are the subject of the HDO have been resolved with finality. The HDO asks the ALJ to determine (i) whether Sinclair was the real party in interest to the sale of WGN-TV, KDAF(TV), and KIAH(TV), (ii) if so, whether the Company engaged in misrepresentation and/or lack of candor in its applications with the FCC and (iii) whether consummation of the overall transaction would be in the public interest and compliance with the FCC's ownership rules. The Company maintains that the overall transaction and the proposed divestitures comply with the FCC's rules, and strongly rejects any allegation of misrepresentation or lack of candor; however, we cannot predict the timing for completion or the outcome of the ALJ hearing. While review of the issues raised by the HDO remains pending, the Company's ability to acquire additional TV stations may be impacted. In addition, in light of the release of the HDO, there can be no assurance that the transaction with Tribune will be consummated. The failure to complete the transaction may adversely affect Sinclair's business and operations.

## Changes in the Rules of Television Ownership, Local Marketing Agreements, Joint Sales Agreements, Retransmission Consent Negotiations, and National Ownership Cap

Certain of our stations have entered into what have commonly been referred to as local marketing agreements or LMAs. One typical type of LMA is a programming agreement between two separately owned television stations serving the same market, whereby the licensee of one station programs substantial portions of the broadcast day and sells advertising time during such programming segments on the other licensee's station subject to the latter licensee's ultimate editorial and other controls. We believe these arrangements allow us to reduce our operating expenses and enhance profitability.

In 1999, the FCC established a new local television ownership rule which made LMAs attributable. However, the rule grandfathered LMAs that were entered into prior to November 5, 1996, and permitted the applicable stations to continue operations pursuant to the LMAs until the conclusion of the FCC's 2004 biennial review. The FCC stated it would conduct a case-by-case review of grandfathered LMAs and assess the appropriateness of extending the grandfathering periods. The FCC did not initiate any review of grandfathered LMAs in 2004 or as part of its subsequent quadrennial reviews. We do not know when, or if, the FCC will conduct any such review of grandfathered LMAs. Currently, all of our LMAs are grandfathered under the local television ownership rule because they were entered into prior to November 5, 1996. If the FCC were to eliminate the grandfathering of these LMAs, we would have to terminate or modify these LMAs.

In February 2015, the FCC issued an order implementing certain statutorily required changes to its rules governing the duty to negotiate retransmission consent agreements in good faith. With these changes, a television broadcast station

is prohibited from negotiating retransmission consent jointly with another television station in the same market unless the “stations are directly or indirectly under common de jure control permitted under the regulations of the Commission.” During a 2015 retransmission consent negotiation, a MVPD filed a complaint with the FCC accusing us of violating this rule. Although we reached agreement with the MVPD, the FCC initiated an investigation. In order to resolve the investigation and all other pending matters before the FCC's Media Bureau (including the grant of all outstanding renewals and dismissal or cancellation of all outstanding adversarial pleadings or forfeitures before the Media Bureau), the Company, on July 29, 2016, without any admission of liability, entered into a consent decree with the FCC pursuant to which the Company paid a settlement payment and agreed to be subject to ongoing compliance monitoring by the FCC for a period of 36 months.

In September 2015, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in response to a Congressional directive in STELAR to examine the “totality of the circumstances test” for good-faith negotiations of retransmission consent. The proposed rulemaking sought comment on new factors and evidence to consider in the FCC's evaluation of claims of bad faith negotiation, including service interruptions prior to a “marquee sports or entertainment event,” restrictions on online access to broadcast programming during negotiation impasses, broadcasters’ ability to offer bundles of broadcast signals with other broadcast stations or cable

Table of Contents

networks, and broadcasters' ability to invoke the FCC's exclusivity rules during service interruptions. On July 14, 2016, then-Chairman Wheeler announced that the FCC would not, at such time, proceed to adopt additional rules governing good faith negotiations of retransmission consent. No formal action has yet been taken on this Proposed Rulemaking, and we cannot predict if the full Commission will agree to terminate the Rulemaking without action.

In August 2016, the FCC completed both its 2010 and 2014 quadrennial reviews of its media ownership rules and issued an order (Ownership Order) which left most of the existing multiple ownership rules intact, but amended the rules to provide for the attribution of JSAs where two television stations are located in the same market, and a party with an attributable interest in one station sells more than 15% of the advertising time per week of the other station. JSAs existing as of March 31, 2014, were grandfathered until October 1, 2025, at which point they would have to be terminated, amended or otherwise come into compliance with the JSA attribution rule. On November 20, 2017, the FCC released an Ownership Order on Reconsideration that, among other things, eliminated the JSA attribution rule. The rule changes adopted in the Ownership Order on Reconsideration became effective on February 7, 2018. A Petition for Review of the Ownership Order on Reconsideration, including the elimination of the JSA attribution rule, was filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. On February 7, 2018, the court denied, among other things, Petitioners' request to stay the effective date of the Ownership Order on Reconsideration and instead issued a stay of the appeal for a period of 6 months. A Petition for Review of the Ownership Order on Reconsideration was subsequently filed in the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and was transferred to the Third Circuit and is subject to the stay. We cannot predict the outcome of this proceeding. If we are required to terminate or modify our LMAs or JSAs, our business could be adversely affected in several ways, including losses on investments and termination penalties.

If we are required to terminate or modify our LMAs or JSAs, our business could be affected in the following ways:

**Losses on investments.** In some cases, we own the non-license assets used by the stations we operate under LMAs and JSAs. If certain of these arrangements are no longer permitted, we could be forced to sell these assets, restructure our agreements or find another use for them. If this happens, the market for such assets may not be as good as when we purchased them and, therefore, we cannot be certain of a favorable return on our original investments.

**Termination penalties.** If the FCC requires us to modify or terminate existing LMAs or JSAs before the terms of the agreements expire, or under certain circumstances, we elect not to extend the terms of the agreements, we may be forced to pay termination penalties under the terms of some of our agreements. Any such termination penalties could be material.

On September 6, 2016, the FCC released the UHF Discount Order, eliminating the UHF Discount. The UHF discount allowed television station owners to discount the coverage of UHF stations when calculating compliance with the FCC's national ownership cap, which prohibits a single entity from owning television stations that reach, in total, more than 39% of all the television households in the nation. All but 34 of the stations we currently own and operate, or to which we provide programming services are UHF. On April 20, 2017, the FCC acted on a Petition for Reconsideration of the UHF Discount Order and adopted the UHF Discount Order on Reconsideration which reinstated the UHF discount, which became effective June 15, 2017 and is currently in effect. A Petition for Review of the UHF Discount Order on Reconsideration was filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit on May 12, 2017. The court denied the Petition for Review on July 25, 2018. On December 18, 2017, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to examine the national audience reach cap, including the UHF discount. We cannot predict the outcome of the rulemaking proceeding. With the application of the UHF discount counting all our present stations we reach approximately 25% of U.S. households. With the pending Tribune transaction, absent divestitures, we would exceed the 39% cap, even with the application of the UHF discount. We have filed FCC applications to divest stations in certain markets, which would bring our national audience reach under the 39% cap (including the UHF discount) upon closing. Changes to the national ownership cap could limit our ability to make television station

acquisitions.

21

---

Table of Contents

## 5. EARNINGS PER SHARE:

The following table reconciles income (numerator) and shares (denominator) used in our computations of basic and diluted earnings per share for the periods presented (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Income (Numerator)				
Net income	\$29,309	\$46,035	\$73,304	\$116,738
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(1,268 )	(1,390 )	(2,139 )	(14,891 )
Numerator for basic and diluted earnings per common share available to common shareholders	\$28,041	\$44,645	\$71,165	\$101,847
Shares (Denominator)				
Weighted-average common shares outstanding	102,224	102,649	102,062	97,668
Dilutive effect of stock-settled appreciation rights and outstanding stock options	762	1,016	890	1,039
Weighted-average common and common equivalent shares outstanding	102,986	103,665	102,952	98,707

The following table shows the weighted-average stock-settled appreciation rights and outstanding stock options (in thousands) that are excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per common share as the inclusion of such shares would be anti-dilutive:

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Weighted-average stock-settled appreciation rights and outstanding stock options excluded	1,600	—	1,050	—

Table of Contents

## 6. SEGMENT DATA:

We measure segment performance based on operating income (loss). Our broadcast segment includes stations in 89 markets located throughout the continental United States. Other primarily consists of original networks and content, non-broadcast digital and internet solutions, technical services, and other non-media investments. All of our businesses are located within the United States. Corporate costs primarily include our costs to operate as a public company and to operate our corporate headquarters location. Other and Corporate are not reportable segments but are included for reconciliation purposes.

We had approximately \$160.1 million and \$172.7 million of intercompany loans between the broadcast segment, other, and corporate as of June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. We had \$3.8 million and \$4.2 million in intercompany interest expense related to intercompany loans between the broadcast segment, other, and corporate for the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. We had \$7.6 million and \$9.9 million in intercompany interest expense related to intercompany loans between the broadcast segment, other, and corporate for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017.

Segment financial information is included in the following tables for the periods presented (in thousands):

For the three months ended June 30, 2018	Broadcast	Other	Corporate	Consolidated
Revenue	\$642,279	\$87,864	\$ —	\$ 730,143
Depreciation of property and equipment	21,178	1,920	19	23,117
Amortization of definite-lived intangible assets and other assets	37,786	5,331	—	43,117
Amortization of program contract costs and net realizable value adjustments	24,710	—	—	24,710
Corporate general and administrative expenses	26,590	221	2,874	29,685
Gain on asset dispositions, net of impairment	(1,301)	(3,440)	—	(4,741)
Operating income (loss)	140,607	(6,132)	(2,893)	131,582
Interest expense	1,438	198	90,635	92,271
Loss from equity investments	—	(17,483)	—	(17,483)
Assets	4,787,400	734,075	1,060,068	6,581,543
For the three months ended June 30, 2017	Broadcast	Other	Corporate	Consolidated
Revenue (a)	\$590,967	\$61,267	\$ —	\$ 652,234
Depreciation of property and equipment	21,559	1,819	225	23,603
Amortization of definite-lived intangible assets and other assets	38,298	5,079	—	43,377
Amortization of program contract costs and net realizable value adjustments	28,896	—	—	28,896
Corporate general and administrative expenses	22,349	273	2,429	25,051
Gain on asset dispositions, net of impairment	(22)	(128)	—	(150)
Operating income (loss)	131,284	(9,781)	(2,654)	118,849
Interest expense	1,329	216	49,414	50,959
Income from equity investments	—	1,462	—	1,462

Table of Contents

For the six months ended June 30, 2018	Broadcast	Other	Corporate	Consolidated
Revenue	\$ 1,238,172	\$ 157,324	\$ —	\$ 1,395,496
Depreciation of property and equipment	46,577	3,827	38	50,442
Amortization of definite-lived intangible assets and other assets	76,256	10,466	—	86,722
Amortization of program contract costs and net realizable value adjustments	51,660	—	—	51,660
Corporate general and administrative overhead expenses	48,334	476	5,471	54,281
(Gain) loss on asset dispositions, net of impairment	(85,400	) (d) 59,550	(c) —	(25,850 )
Operating income (loss)	316,774	(d) (72,368	) (c) (5,509	238,897
Interest expense	2,809	400	158,804	162,013
Income (loss) from equity investments	—	(29,983 )	23	(29,960 )
For the six months ended June 30, 2017	Broadcast	Other	Corporate	Consolidated
Revenue (a)	\$ 1,160,836	\$ 118,334	\$ —	\$ 1,279,170
Depreciation of property and equipment	43,505	3,588	491	47,584
Amortization of definite-lived intangible assets and other assets	76,624	12,307	—	88,931
Amortization of program contract costs and net realizable value adjustments	59,915	—	—	59,915
Corporate general and administrative overhead expenses	41,340	561	3,726	45,627
(Gain) on asset dispositions, net of impairment	(380	) (53,117	) (b) —	(53,497 )
Operating income (loss)	245,827	34,868	(b) (4,217	276,478
Interest expense	2,695	1,429	104,153	108,277
Income from equity investments	—	141	—	141

(a) Revenue has been adjusted for the adoption of ASC 606. See Note 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

(b) Includes a gain on the sale of Alarm of \$53.0 million, of which \$12.3 million was attributable to noncontrolling interests. See Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets.

(c) Includes a \$59.6 million impairment to the carrying value of a consolidated real estate venture. See Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets.

(d) Includes a gain of \$83.3 million related to the auction proceeds. See Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets.



Table of Contents

7. RELATED PERSON TRANSACTIONS:

Transactions with our controlling shareholders

David, Frederick, J. Duncan, and Robert Smith (collectively, the controlling shareholders) are brothers and hold substantially all of the Class B Common Stock and some of our Class A Common Stock. We engaged in the following transactions with them and/or entities in which they have substantial interests.

**Leases.** Certain assets used by us and our operating subsidiaries are leased from Cunningham Communications Inc. (an owner of broadcast towers), Keyser Investment Group, Gerstell Development Limited Partnership, and Beaver Dam, LLC (entities owned by the controlling shareholders). Lease payments made to these entities were \$1.3 million and \$1.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and \$2.7 million and \$2.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

**Charter Aircraft.** We lease aircraft owned by certain controlling shareholders. For all aircraft leases, we incurred expenses of \$0.4 million for both the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, and \$0.8 million and \$0.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

Cunningham Broadcasting Corporation

Cunningham owns a portfolio of television stations, including: WNUV-TV Baltimore, Maryland; WRGT-TV Dayton, Ohio; WVAH-TV Charleston, West Virginia; WMYA-TV Anderson, South Carolina; WTTE-TV Columbus, Ohio; WDBB-TV Birmingham, Alabama; WBSF-TV Flint, Michigan; WGTU-TV/WGTQ-TV Traverse City/Cadillac, Michigan; WEMT-TV Tri-Cities, Tennessee; WYDO-TV Greenville, North Carolina; KBVU-TV/KCVU-TV Eureka/Chico-Redding, California; WPFO-TV Portland, Maine; and KRNV-DT/KENV-DT Reno, Nevada/Salt Lake City, Utah (collectively, the Cunningham Stations). Certain of our stations provide services to these Cunningham Stations pursuant to LMAs or JSAs and SSAs. See Note 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, for further discussion of the scope of services provided under these types of arrangements. As of June 30, 2018, we have jointly and severally, unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed \$52.5 million of Cunningham's debt, of which \$10.5 million, net of \$0.8 million deferred financing costs, relates to the Cunningham VIEs that we consolidate, as discussed further below.

The voting stock of the Cunningham Stations was owned by the estate of Carolyn C. Smith, the mother of our controlling shareholders, until January 2018, when the voting stock was purchased by an unrelated party after receiving FCC approval. All of the non-voting stock is owned by trusts for the benefit of the children of our controlling shareholders. We consolidate certain subsidiaries of Cunningham with which we have variable interests through various arrangements related to the Cunningham Stations, as discussed further below.

The services provided to WNUV-TV, WMYA-TV, WTTE-TV, WRGT-TV and WVAH-TV are governed by a master agreement which has a current term that expires on July 1, 2023 and we have two additional 5-year renewal terms remaining with final expiration on July 1, 2033. We also executed purchase agreements to acquire the license related assets of these stations from Cunningham, which grant us the right to acquire, and grant Cunningham the right to require us to acquire, subject to applicable FCC rules and regulations, 100% of the capital stock or the assets of these individual subsidiaries of Cunningham. Pursuant to the terms of this agreement we are obligated to pay Cunningham an annual fee for the television stations equal to the greater of (i) 3% of each station's annual net broadcast revenue or (ii) \$5.0 million. The aggregate purchase price of these television stations increases by 6% annually. A portion of the fee is required to be applied to the purchase price to the extent of the 6% increase. The remaining aggregate purchase price of these stations as of June 30, 2018 was approximately \$53.6 million. Additionally, we provide services to WDBB-TV pursuant to an LMA, which expires April 22, 2025, and own a purchase option to acquire for \$0.2 million.

We paid Cunningham, under these agreements, \$2.1 million and \$1.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and \$4.7 million and \$3.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

The agreements with KBVU-TV/KCVU-TV, KRNV-DT/KENV-DT, WBSF-TV, WEMT-TV, WGTU-TV/WGTQ-TV, WPFO-TV, and WYDO-TV expire in December 2020, November 2021, November 2021, May 2023, August 2023, December 2023, and August 2025, respectively, and each has renewal provisions for successive eight year periods. We earned \$15.5 million and \$1.4 million from the services we performed for these stations for the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and \$28.9 million and \$2.8 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. Cunningham assumed the joint sales agreement under which we will provide services to WEMT-TV, WYDO-TV, and KBVU-TV/KCVU-TV in September 2017 with the acquisition of the membership interest of Esteem Broadcasting LLC in connection with our acquisition of Bonten Media Group, as discussed in Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets.

Table of Contents

As we consolidate the licensees as VIEs, certain amounts we earn or pay under the arrangements are eliminated in consolidation and the gross revenues of the stations are reported on our consolidated statements of operations. Our consolidated revenues include \$38.8 million and \$26.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and \$76.3 million and \$53.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, related to the Cunningham Stations.

In April 2016, we entered into an agreement with Cunningham to provide master control equipment and provide master control services to a station in Johnstown, PA with which Cunningham has an LMA that expires in April 2019. Under the agreement, Cunningham paid us an initial fee of \$0.7 million and pays us \$0.2 million annually for master control services plus the cost to maintain and repair the equipment. In August 2016, we entered into an agreement, expiring in October 2021, with Cunningham to provide a news share service with the Johnstown, PA station beginning in October 2016 for an annual fee of \$1.0 million.

In 2017, Cunningham repaid, in its entirety, a January 2016 promissory note to borrow \$19.5 million from us. Interest income from the note receivable was \$0.2 million and \$0.5 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2017, respectively.

Atlantic Automotive Corporation

We sell advertising time to Atlantic Automotive Corporation (Atlantic Automotive), a holding company that owns automobile dealerships and an automobile leasing company. David D. Smith, our Executive Chairman, has a controlling interest in, and is a member of the Board of Directors of, Atlantic Automotive. We received payments for advertising totaling less than \$0.1 million and \$0.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and \$0.1 million and \$0.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

Additionally, Atlantic Automotive leased office space owned by one of our non-media investments accounted for under the equity method. This investment was sold in May 2017. Atlantic Automotive paid \$0.1 million and \$0.4 million in rent for the three and six months ended June 30, 2017.

Leased property by real estate ventures

Certain of our real estate ventures have entered into property leases with entities owned by members of the Smith Family. Total rent received under these leases was \$0.1 million and \$0.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively, and \$0.2 million and \$0.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

Table of Contents

## 8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS:

Accounting guidance provides for valuation techniques, such as the market approach (comparable market prices), the income approach (present value of future income or cash flow), and the cost approach (cost to replace the service capacity of an asset or replacement cost). A fair value hierarchy using three broad levels prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The following is a brief description of those three levels:

- Level 1: Observable inputs such as quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets and quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs that reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions.

The following table sets forth the face value and fair value of our notes and debentures for the periods presented (in thousands):

	As of June 30, 2018		As of December 31, 2017	
	Face Value (a)	Fair Value	Face Value (a)	Fair Value
Level 2:				
6.125% Senior Unsecured Notes due 2022	\$500,000	\$508,750	\$500,000	\$515,535
5.875% Senior Unsecured Notes due 2026	350,000	343,438	350,000	363,475
5.625% Senior Unsecured Notes due 2024	550,000	545,188	550,000	568,205
5.375% Senior Unsecured Notes due 2021	600,000	603,000	600,000	610,440
5.125% Senior Unsecured Notes due 2027	400,000	368,000	400,000	396,088
Term Loan A-1 (b)	—	—	117,370	117,370
Term Loan A-2	104,610	104,610	113,327	113,327
Term Loan B	1,349,450	1,339,329	1,356,300	1,357,995
Debt of variable interest entities	27,447	27,447	29,614	29,614
Debt of other operating divisions	22,197	22,197	25,238	25,238

Amounts are carried on our consolidated balance sheets net of debt discount and deferred financing cost, which are (a) excluded in the above table, of \$36.6 million and \$39.0 million as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively.

(b) Term Loan A-1 debt matured during the quarter ended June 30, 2018. For additional information, see Note 3. Notes Payable and Commercial Bank Financing.

Table of Contents

9. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

STG, a wholly-owned subsidiary and the television operating subsidiary of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. (SBG), is the primary obligor under the Bank Credit Agreement, the 5.375% Notes, 5.625% Notes, 6.125% Notes, 5.875% Notes, and 5.125% Notes. Our Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock as of June 30, 2018, were obligations or securities of SBG and not obligations or securities of STG. SBG is a guarantor under the Bank Credit Agreement, the 5.375% Notes, 5.625% Notes, 6.125% Notes, 5.875% Notes, and 5.125% Notes. As of June 30, 2018, our consolidated total debt, net of deferred financing costs and debt discounts, of \$3,908.2 million included \$3,889.8 million related to STG and its subsidiaries of which SBG guaranteed \$3,845.1 million.

SBG, KDSM, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SBG, and STG's wholly-owned subsidiaries (guarantor subsidiaries) have fully and unconditionally guaranteed, subject to certain customary automatic release provisions, all of STG's obligations. Those guarantees are joint and several. There are certain contractual restrictions on the ability of SBG, STG, or KDSM, LLC to obtain funds from their subsidiaries in the form of dividends or loans.

The following condensed consolidating financial statements present the consolidated balance sheets, consolidated statements of operations, and consolidated statements of cash flows of SBG, STG, KDSM, LLC, and the guarantor subsidiaries, the direct and indirect non-guarantor subsidiaries of SBG and the eliminations necessary to arrive at our information on a consolidated basis. The year-end condensed balance sheet data was derived from audited financial statements, but does not include all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The consolidating financial statements for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018, have been revised for the adoption of ASC 606 as discussion under Recent Accounting Pronouncements and Revenue Recognition within Note 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

These statements are presented in accordance with the disclosure requirements under SEC Regulation S-X, Rule 3-10.

Table of Contents

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET

AS OF JUNE 30, 2018

(in thousands) (unaudited)

	Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.	Sinclair Television Group, Inc.	Guarantor Subsidiaries and KDSM, LLC	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Sinclair Consolidated
Cash	\$—	\$956,412	\$10,475	\$47,831	\$—	\$1,014,718
Accounts receivable	—	—	507,328	58,842	—	566,170
Other current assets	4,105	10,162	81,843	28,362	(26,601)	97,871
Total current assets	4,105	966,574	599,646	135,035	(26,601)	1,678,759
Property and equipment, net	791	32,196	574,942	70,419	(11,712)	666,636
Investment in consolidated subsidiaries	1,589,959	3,756,415	4,179	—	(5,350,553)	—
Goodwill	—	—	2,018,206	3,867	—	2,022,073
Indefinite-lived intangible assets	—	—	142,381	14,273	—	156,654
Definite-lived intangible assets	—	—	1,666,827	74,405	(54,969)	1,686,263
Other long-term assets	30,066	836,596	257,882	180,629	(934,015)	371,158
Total assets	\$1,624,921	\$5,591,781	\$5,264,063	\$478,628	\$(6,377,850)	\$6,581,543
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$88	\$137,104	\$260,779	\$85,009	\$(27,517)	\$455,463
Current portion of long-term debt	—	31,135	4,254	9,291	(489)	44,191
Other current liabilities	—	—	61,437	6,927	(1)	68,363
Total current liabilities	88	168,239	326,470	101,227	(28,007)	568,017
Long-term debt	—	3,787,552	35,446	381,986	(340,936)	3,864,048
Other liabilities	3,666	41,369	1,144,822	171,178	(796,975)	564,060
Total liabilities	3,754	3,997,160	1,506,738	654,391	(1,165,918)	4,996,125
Total Sinclair Broadcast Group equity (deficit)	1,621,167	1,594,621	3,757,325	(135,558)	(5,216,388)	1,621,167
Noncontrolling interests in consolidated subsidiaries	—	—	—	(40,205)	4,456	(35,749)
Total liabilities and equity (deficit)	\$1,624,921	\$5,591,781	\$5,264,063	\$478,628	\$(6,377,850)	\$6,581,543

Table of Contents

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

(in thousands)

	Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.	Sinclair Television Group, Inc.	Guarantor Subsidiaries and KDSM, LLC	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Sinclair Consolidated
Cash	\$—	\$645,830	\$12,273	\$23,223	\$—	\$681,326
Restricted Cash	—	—	311,110	2,000	—	313,110
Accounts receivable	—	—	530,273	36,191	—	566,464
Other current assets	3,034	5,758	145,637	9,687	(10,269 )	153,847
Total current assets	3,034	651,588	999,293	71,101	(10,269 )	1,714,747
Property and equipment, net	829	31,111	586,950	132,010	(12,602 )	738,298
Investment in consolidated subsidiaries	1,537,337	4,116,241	4,179	—	(5,657,757 )	—
Goodwill	—	—	2,120,166	3,867	—	2,124,033
Indefinite-lived intangible assets	—	—	145,073	14,298	—	159,371
Definite-lived intangible assets	—	—	1,781,045	77,944	(57,319 )	1,801,670
Other long-term assets	31,757	770,312	104,363	208,367	(868,448 )	246,351
Total assets	\$1,572,957	\$5,569,252	\$5,741,069	\$507,587	\$(6,606,395)	\$6,784,470
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$1,100	\$84,326	\$261,266	\$36,029	\$(12,318 )	\$370,403
Current portion of long-term debt	—	148,505	3,445	9,645	(546 )	161,049
Other current liabilities	—	—	180,616	14,281	—	194,897
Total current liabilities	1,100	232,831	445,327	59,955	(12,864 )	726,349
Long-term debt	—	3,799,987	39,730	381,127	(333,243 )	3,887,601
Other liabilities	3,119	38,282	1,141,266	187,569	(734,082 )	636,154
Total liabilities	4,219	4,071,100	1,626,323	628,651	(1,080,189 )	5,250,104
Total Sinclair Broadcast Group equity (deficit)	1,568,738	1,498,152	4,114,746	(82,051 )	(5,530,847 )	1,568,738
Noncontrolling interests in consolidated subsidiaries	—	—	—	(39,013 )	4,641	(34,372 )
Total liabilities and equity (deficit)	\$1,572,957	\$5,569,252	\$5,741,069	\$507,587	\$(6,606,395)	\$6,784,470

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018  
 (in thousands) (unaudited)

	Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.	Sinclair Television Group, Inc.	Guarantor Subsidiaries and KDSM, LLC	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Sinclair Consolidated
Net revenue	\$—	\$—	\$ 680,130	\$ 71,730	\$(21,717 )	\$ 730,143
Media program and production expenses	—	—	285,940	33,175	(18,257 )	300,858
Selling, general and administrative	2,874	26,585	147,180	4,352	(512 )	180,479
Depreciation, amortization and other operating expenses	19	1,134	84,573	33,223	(1,725 )	117,224
Total operating expenses	2,893	27,719	517,693	70,750	(20,494 )	598,561
Operating (loss) income	(2,893 )	(27,719 )	162,437	980	(1,223 )	131,582
Equity in earnings of consolidated subsidiaries	29,345	128,164	(185 )	—	(157,324 )	—
Interest expense	(1 )	(90,635 )	(989 )	(4,643 )	3,997	(92,271 )
Other income (expense)	642	3,256	(14,345 )	(2,852 )	—	(13,299 )
Loss from extinguishment of debt	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total other income (expense)	29,986	40,785	(15,519 )	(7,495 )	(153,327 )	(105,570 )
Income tax benefit (provision)	948	22,056	(17,607 )	(2,100 )	—	3,297
Net income (loss)	28,041	35,122	129,311	(8,615 )	(154,550 )	29,309
Net income attributable to the noncontrolling interests	—	—	—	(1,268 )	—	(1,268 )
Net income (loss) attributable to Sinclair Broadcast Group	\$ 28,041	\$ 35,122	\$ 129,311	\$ (9,883 )	\$(154,550 )	\$ 28,041
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 28,041	\$ 35,122	\$ 129,311	\$ (8,615 )	\$(154,550 )	\$ 29,309



Table of ContentsCONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

(in thousands) (unaudited)

	Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.	Sinclair Television Group, Inc.	Guarantor Subsidiaries and KDSM, LLC	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Sinclair Consolidated
Net revenue	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 623,087	\$ 50,158	\$(21,011)	\$ 652,234
Media program and production expenses	—	—	257,977	30,476	(18,967)	269,486
Selling, general and administrative	2,292	22,412	124,450	2,919	24	152,097
Depreciation, amortization and other operating expenses	225	1,651	87,564	23,136	(774)	111,802
Total operating expenses	2,517	24,063	469,991	56,531	(19,717)	533,385
Operating (loss) income	(2,517)	(24,063)	153,096	(6,373)	(1,294)	118,849
Equity in earnings of consolidated subsidiaries	45,927	96,600	93	—	(142,620)	—
Interest expense	(34)	(49,379)	(1,425)	(4,149)	4,028	(50,959)
Other income (expense)	723	1,128	(1,895)	3,069	—	3,025
Total other income (expense)	46,616	48,349	(3,227)	(1,080)	(138,592)	(47,934)
Income tax benefit (provision)	546	24,636	(51,842)	1,780	—	(24,880)
Net income (loss)	44,645	48,922	98,027	(5,673)	(139,886)	46,035
Net income attributable to the noncontrolling interests	—	—	—	(1,386)	(4)	(1,390)
Net income (loss) attributable to Sinclair Broadcast Group	\$ 44,645	\$ 48,922	\$ 98,027	\$ (7,059)	\$ (139,890)	\$ 44,645
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 44,645	\$ 48,922	\$ 98,027	\$ (5,673)	\$ (139,886)	\$ 46,035

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
 FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018  
 (in thousands) (unaudited)

	Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.	Sinclair Television Group, Inc.	Guarantor Subsidiaries and KDSM, LLC	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Sinclair Consolidated
Net revenue	\$ —	\$ —	\$1,305,814	\$ 129,741	\$(40,059)	\$1,395,496
Media program and production expenses	—	—	559,355	65,195	(35,143)	589,407
Selling, general and administrative	5,471	48,339	290,481	8,636	(953)	351,974
Depreciation, amortization and other operating expenses	38	2,384	90,989	124,231	(2,424)	215,218
Total operating expenses	5,509	50,723	940,825	198,062	(38,520)	1,156,599
Operating (loss) income	(5,509)	(50,723)	364,989	(68,321)	(1,539)	238,897
Equity in earnings of consolidated subsidiaries	74,383	299,934	245	—	(374,562)	—
Interest expense	(1)	(158,803)	(1,961)	(9,193)	7,945	(162,013)
Loss from the extinguishment of debt	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other income (expense)	1,323	5,551	(27,706)	(1,673)	—	(22,505)
Total other income (expense)	75,705	146,682	(29,422)	(10,866)	(366,617)	(184,518)
Income tax benefit (provision)	969	37,454	(33,283)	13,785	—	18,925
Net income (loss)	71,165	133,413	302,284	(65,402)	(368,156)	73,304
Net income attributable to the noncontrolling interests	—	—	—	(2,324)	185	(2,139)
Net income (loss) attributable to Sinclair Broadcast Group	\$ 71,165	\$ 133,413	\$ 302,284	\$(67,726)	\$(367,971)	\$ 71,165
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 71,165	\$ 133,413	\$ 302,284	\$(65,402)	\$(368,156)	\$ 73,304

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
 FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
 (in thousands) (unaudited)

	Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.	Sinclair Television Group, Inc.	Guarantor Subsidiaries and KDSM, LLC	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Sinclair Consolidated
Net revenue	\$—	\$—	\$1,218,326	\$ 101,014	\$(40,170 )	\$1,279,170
Media program and production expenses	—	—	506,426	58,920	(37,459 )	527,887
Selling, general and administrative	3,588	41,370	246,884	5,552	—	297,394
Depreciation, amortization and other operating expenses	491	3,376	178,078	(3,315 )	(1,219 )	177,411
Total operating expenses	4,079	44,746	931,388	61,157	(38,678 )	1,002,692
Operating (loss) income	(4,079 )	(44,746 )	286,938	39,857	(1,492 )	276,478
Equity in earnings of consolidated subsidiaries	104,116	184,405	143	—	(288,664 )	—
Interest expense	(71 )	(104,083 )	(2,545 )	(11,772 )	10,194	(108,277 )
Loss from extinguishment of debt	—	(1,404 )	—	—	—	(1,404 )
Other income (expense)	824	1,928	(1,399 )	2,047	—	3,400
Total other income (expense)	104,869	80,846	(3,801 )	(9,725 )	(278,470 )	(106,281 )
Income tax benefit (provision)	1,057	49,741	(96,071 )	(8,186 )	—	(53,459 )
Net income (loss)	101,847	85,841	187,066	21,946	(279,962 )	116,738
Net income attributable to the noncontrolling interests	—	—	—	(14,879 )	(12 )	(14,891 )
Net income (loss) attributable to Sinclair Broadcast Group	\$ 101,847	\$ 85,841	\$ 187,066	\$ 7,067	\$(279,974 )	\$ 101,847
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 101,847	\$ 85,841	\$ 187,066	\$ 21,946	\$(279,962 )	\$ 116,738

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
 FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018  
 (in thousands) (unaudited)

	Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.	Sinclair Television Group, Inc.	Guarantor Subsidiaries and KDSM, LLC	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Sinclair Consolidated
NET CASH FLOWS FROM (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$(1,196 )	\$(154,476)	\$414,379	\$(9,691 )	\$7,682	\$256,698
CASH FLOWS FROM (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES:						
Acquisition of property and equipment	—	(4,250 )	(46,803 )	(2,463 )	1,248	(52,268 )
Proceeds from the sale of assets	—	—	1,005	—	—	1,005
Investments in equity investees	(1,735 )	(1,221 )	(13,586 )	(1,454 )	—	(17,996 )
Distributions from equity investees	4,168	—	—	11,007	—	15,175
Loans to affiliates	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other, net	—	(3,331 )	—	—	—	(3,331 )
Net cash flows from (used in) investing activities	2,433	(8,802 )	(59,384 )	7,090	1,248	(57,415 )
CASH FLOWS FROM (USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES:						
Proceeds from notes payable and commercial bank financing	—	—	—	2,016	—	2,016
Repayments of notes payable, commercial bank financing and capital leases	—	(132,937 )	(1,715 )	(7,612 )	187	(142,077 )
Dividends paid on Class A and Class B Common Stock	(36,795 )	—	—	—	—	(36,795 )
Distributions to noncontrolling interests	—	—	—	(3,516 )	—	(3,516 )
Increase (decrease) in intercompany payables	33,309	606,796	(666,187 )	35,199	(9,117 )	—
Other, net	2,249	—	—	(876 )	—	1,373
Net cash flows from (used in) financing activities	(1,237 )	473,859	(667,902 )	25,211	(8,930 )	(178,999 )
NET INCREASE IN CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS, AND RESTRICTED CASH	—	310,581	(312,907 )	22,610	—	20,284
CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS, AND RESTRICTED CASH, beginning of period	—	645,830	323,383	26,727	—	995,940
CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS, AND RESTRICTED CASH, end of period	\$—	\$956,411	\$10,476	\$49,337	\$—	\$1,016,224

Table of Contents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
 FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
 (in thousands) (unaudited)

	Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.	Sinclair Television Group, Inc.	Guarantor Subsidiaries and KDSM, LLC	Non- Guarantor Subsidiaries	Eliminations	Sinclair Consolidated
NET CASH FLOWS FROM (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$ 2,030	\$(91,863 )	\$ 232,478	\$(4,671 )	\$ 3,308	\$ 141,282
CASH FLOWS FROM (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES:						
Acquisition of property and equipment	(117 )	(3,913 )	(27,596 )	(1,881 )	—	(33,507 )
Acquisition of businesses, net of cash acquired	—	(8,308 )	(20,021 )	—	—	(28,329 )
Purchase of alarm monitoring contracts	—	—	—	—	—	—
Investments in equity investees	(945 )	(481 )	(15,046 )	(4,218 )	—	(20,690 )
Proceeds from the sale of assets	—	—	—	194,641	—	194,641
Distributions from equity investees	2,266	—	—	2,029	—	4,295
Other, net	—	(8,189 )	830	(5,682 )	—	(13,041 )
Net cash flows from (used in) investing activities	1,204	(20,891 )	(61,833 )	184,889	—	103,369
CASH FLOWS FROM (USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES:						
Proceeds from notes payable and commercial bank financing	—	159,669	—	3,420	—	163,089
Repayments of notes payable, commercial bank financing and capital leases	—	(186,319 )	(731 )	(114,118 )	—	(301,168 )
Proceeds from the sale of Class A Common Stock	487,883	—	—	—	—	487,883
Dividends paid on Class A and Class B Common Stock	(34,744 )	—	—	—	—	(34,744 )
Distributions to noncontrolling interests	—	—	—	(18,048 )	—	(18,048 )
Increase (decrease) in intercompany payables	(453,712 )	662,973	(165,240 )	(40,563 )	(3,458 )	—
Other, net	(2,661 )	(25 )	707	(475 )	150	(2,304 )
Net cash flows from (used in) financing activities	(3,234 )	636,298	(165,264 )	(169,784 )	(3,308 )	294,708
NET INCREASE IN CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS, AND RESTRICTED CASH	—	523,544	5,381	10,434	—	539,359
CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS, AND RESTRICTED CASH, beginning of period	—	232,297	10,875	17,012	—	260,184
CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS, AND RESTRICTED CASH, end of period	\$ —	\$ 755,841	\$ 16,256	\$ 27,446	\$ —	\$ 799,543



Table of Contents

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report includes or incorporates forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), and the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and projections about future events. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions about us, including, among other things, the following risks:

General risks

- the impact of changes in national and regional economies and credit and capital markets;
- consumer confidence;
- the potential impact of changes in tax law;
- the activities of our competitors;
- terrorist acts of violence or war and other geopolitical events;
- natural disasters that impact our advertisers and our stations; and
- cybersecurity.

Industry risks

- the business conditions of our advertisers particularly in the automotive and service industries;
- competition with other broadcast television stations, radio stations, multi-channel video programming distributors (MVPDs), internet and broadband content providers and other print and media outlets serving in the same markets;
- the performance of networks and syndicators that provide us with programming content, as well as the performance of internally originated programming;
- the availability and cost of programming from networks and syndicators, as well as the cost of internally originated programming;
- our relationships with networks and their strategies to distribute their programming via means other than their local television affiliates, such as over-the-top content;
- the effects of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Plan, the impact of the repacking of our broadcasting spectrum, as a result of the incentive auction, within a limited timeframe and funding allocated;
- the potential for additional governmental regulation of broadcasting or changes in those regulations and court actions interpreting those regulations, including ownership regulations limiting over-the-air television's ability to compete effectively (including regulations relating to Joint Sales Agreements (JSA), Shared Services Agreements (SSA), and the national ownership cap), arbitrary enforcement of indecency regulations, retransmission consent regulations and political or other advertising restrictions, such as payola rules;
- the impact of FCC and Congressional efforts which may restrict a television station's retransmission consent negotiations;
- the impact of FCC rules requiring broadcast stations to publish, among other information, political advertising rates online;
- the impact of foreign government rules related to digital and online assets;
- labor disputes and legislation and other union activity associated with film, acting, writing and other guilds and professional sports leagues;
- the broadcasting community's ability to develop and adopt a viable mobile digital broadcast television (mobile DTV) strategy and platform, such as the adoption of ATSC 3.0 broadcast standard, and the consumer's appetite for mobile television;

- the impact of programming payments charged by networks pursuant to their affiliation agreements with broadcasters requiring compensation for network programming;
- the effects of declining live/appointment viewership as reported through rating systems and local television efforts to adopt and receive credit for same day viewing plus viewing on-demand thereafter;
- changes in television rating measurement methodologies that could negatively impact audience results;
- the ability of local MVPDs to coordinate and determine local advertising rates as a consortium;
- changes in the makeup of the population in the areas where stations are located;
- the operation of low power devices in the broadcast spectrum, which could interfere with our broadcast signals;
- Over-the-top (OTT) technologies and their potential impact on cord-cutting;



Table of Contents

the impact of MVPDs, virtual MVPDs (vMVPDs), and OTTs offering “skinny” programming bundles that may not include television broadcast stations or our other properties, such as Tennis Channel and our emerging networks; and fluctuations in advertising rates and availability of inventory.

Risks specific to us

the effectiveness of our management;

our ability to attract and maintain local, national, and network advertising and successfully participate in new sales channels such as programmatic and addressable advertising through business partnership ventures and the development of technology;

our ability to service our debt obligations and operate our business under restrictions contained in our financing agreements;

our ability to successfully implement and monetize our own content management system (CMS) designed to provide our viewers significantly improved content via the internet and other digital platforms;

our ability to successfully renegotiate retransmission consent and affiliation fees (cable network fees) agreements;

our ability to renew our FCC licenses;

our ability to obtain FCC approval for any future acquisitions, as well as, in certain cases, customary antitrust clearance for any future acquisitions;

adverse results from litigation and governmental investigations;

our exposure to any wrongdoing by those outside the Company, but which could affect our business or pending acquisitions;

our ability to identify media business investment opportunities and to successfully integrate any acquired businesses, as well as the success of our digital initiatives in a competitive environment;

our ability to maintain our affiliation and programming service agreements with our networks and program service providers and at renewal, to successfully negotiate these agreements with favorable terms;

our ability to effectively respond to technology affecting our industry and to increasing competition from other media providers;

our ability to deploy a nationwide next generation broadcast platforms network (NextGen);

the strength of ratings for our local news broadcasts including our news sharing arrangements;

the successful execution of our program development and multi-channel broadcasting initiatives including CHARGE!, TBD, Comet, other original programming, and mobile DTV; and

the results of prior year tax audits by taxing authorities.

Other matters set forth in this report and other reports filed with the SEC, including the Risk Factors set forth in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 may also cause actual results in the future to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. However, additional factors and risks not currently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also cause actual results in the future to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date on which they are made. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. In light of these risks, uncertainties, and assumptions, events described in the forward-looking statements discussed in this report might not occur.

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth certain operating data for the periods presented:

## STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS DATA

(in thousands, except for per share data) (Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Statement of Operations Data:				
Media revenues (a)	\$695,862	\$637,226	\$1,339,513	\$1,244,283
Non-media revenues	34,281	15,008	55,983	34,887
Total revenues	730,143	652,234	1,395,496	1,279,170
Media production expenses	300,858	269,486	589,407	527,887
Media selling, general and administrative expenses	150,794	127,046	297,693	251,767
Depreciation and amortization expenses (b)	90,944	95,876	188,824	196,430
Non-media expenses	31,021	16,076	52,244	34,478
Corporate general and administrative expenses	29,685	25,051	54,281	45,627
Gain on asset dispositions, net of impairment	(4,741)	(150)	(25,850)	(53,497)
Operating income	131,582	118,849	238,897	276,478
Interest expense and amortization of debt discount and deferred financing costs	(92,271)	(50,959)	(162,013)	(108,277)
Loss from extinguishment of debt	—	—	—	(1,404)
Income (loss) from equity investments	(17,483)	1,462	(29,960)	141
Other income, net	4,184	1,563	7,455	3,259
Income before income taxes	26,012	70,915	54,379	170,197
Income tax benefit (provision)	3,297	(24,880)	18,925	(53,459)
Net income	29,309	46,035	73,304	116,738
Net income attributable to the noncontrolling interests	(1,268)	(1,390)	(2,139)	(14,891)
Net income attributable to Sinclair Broadcast Group	\$28,041	\$44,645	\$71,165	\$101,847
Basic and Diluted Earnings Per Common Share Attributable to Sinclair Broadcast Group:				
Basic earnings per share	\$0.27	\$0.43	\$0.70	\$1.04
Diluted earnings per share	\$0.27	\$0.43	\$0.69	\$1.03

	As of June 30, 2018	As of December 31, 2017
--	------------------------	-------------------------------

## Balance Sheet Data:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,014,718	\$681,326
Total assets	\$6,581,543	\$6,784,470
Total debt (c)	\$3,908,239	\$4,048,650
Total equity	\$1,585,418	\$1,534,366

(a)Media revenues are defined as television advertising revenue, net of agency commissions; distribution revenue; and other media revenues. See Revenue Recognition under Note 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies within the Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of the adoption of the new

accounting principles for revenue recognition.

- (b) Depreciation and amortization includes depreciation and amortization of property and equipment, definite-lived intangible assets, program contract costs, and other assets.
- (c) Total debt is defined as current and long-term notes payable, capital leases, and commercial bank financing, including notes payable and capital leases of affiliates.

## Table of Contents

The following Management's Discussion and Analysis provides qualitative and quantitative information about our financial performance and condition and should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes to those statements. This discussion consists of the following sections:

**Summary of Significant Events** — financial events during the three and six months ended June 30, 2018 and through the date this Report on Form 10-Q is filed.

**Results of Operations** — an analysis of our revenues and expenses for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, including comparisons between quarters and expectations for the three months ended September 30, 2018.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources** — a discussion of our primary sources of liquidity, an analysis of our cash flows from or used in operating activities, investing activities, and financing activities, and an update of our debt refinancings during the three and six months ended June 30, 2018.

## **Summary of Significant Events and Financial Highlights**

### **Transactions**

In April and May 2018, the Company and Tribune announced definitive agreements to sell 23 television stations to Standard Media Group LLC, the Fox Broadcasting Company, Howard Stirk, Cunningham Broadcasting Corporation, and WGN-TV LLC concurrent with Sinclair's acquisition of the stock of Tribune. The sales are part of Sinclair's larger acquisition of Tribune, in order to obtain necessary governmental approval of the Tribune transaction and for other business purposes, and are expected to close immediately prior to or immediately after the Tribune transaction.

In July 2018, in response to statements issued by FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, the Company announced that it was amending certain previously announced divestitures pursuant to the Tribune plan of merger. The Company withdrew the pending divestitures of KDAF(TV) in Dallas and KIAH(TV) in Houston to Cunningham Broadcasting Corporation, and intended to request permission from the FCC to put these stations into a divestiture trust to be sold to an unrelated third party. Tribune withdrew the pending divestiture of WGN in Chicago to WGN-TV LLC. As a result of the withdrawal of the application relating to WGN, the Company would acquire the station as part of the Tribune acquisition. For additional discussion, see Litigation and other legal matters under Note 4. Commitments and Contingencies within the Consolidated Financial Statements.

On July 19, 2018, the FCC released an HDO to commence a hearing before an ALJ with respect to the Company's acquisition of Tribune. The Company is working with Tribune to analyze approaches to the regulatory process that are in the best interest of our companies, employees and shareholders.

### **Television and Digital Content**

Sinclair's newsrooms, dedicated to impactful journalism with a local focus, have won 258 awards thus far in 2018, including 45 Regional RTDNA Edward R. Murrow Awards by 21 newsrooms and 50 Emmy's at 11 stations. The Company's national digital news platform, Circa, and station KOMO each achieved a National Edward R. Murrow Award in June. Sinclair was also honored with six National Press Photographers Association awards for photojournalism, including the Medium Market Station of the Year award for WLOS in Asheville.

In June 2018, the FAA granted Sinclair permission to fly our newsgathering unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) beyond daylight operations, a restriction which most UAS operators are subject.

### **Broadcast Distribution**

In April 2018, the Company entered into a multi-year retransmission renewal with Cox for the carriage of Sinclair stations, Tennis Channel, and Sinclair's national networks on its platforms.

In May 2018, Sinclair and the licensees of stations to which Sinclair provides services and Fox Broadcasting Company agreed to multi-year renewals of 34 Fox affiliates, including all eight of Tribune's Fox affiliates which are not being sold to Fox. The agreement expires on December 31, 2020. In the event that the Tribune acquisition does

not close, the agreement may be terminated no earlier than December 31, 2018.

#### ATSC 3.0

In April 2018, India based OTT/Cloud solutions company Gaian Solutions, Sinclair, and Sinclair's subsidiary ONE Media 3.0, LLC signed a memorandum of understanding to work together to create a framework and related applications for proof of concept services that would be part of a Next Generation Broadcast Platform to support Sinclair's ATSC 3.0.

40

---

Table of Contents

Financing and Shareholder Returns

In May and August 2018, we declared quarterly cash dividends of \$0.18 per share.

Other Legal and Regulatory

As of August 7, 2018, the Company is aware of three putative class action lawsuits filed in United States District Court against the Company, Tribune Media Company, Tribune Broadcasting Company, LLC and other defendants, including some that are unnamed. The lawsuits allege that the defendants conspired to fix prices for commercials to be aired on broadcast television stations throughout the United States, in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act. The lawsuits seek damages, attorney's fees, costs and interest, as well as enjoinder from adopting practices or plans which would restrain competition in a similar manner as alleged in the lawsuits. The Company believes the lawsuits may have been related to media reports of a Civil Investigative Demand (CID) the Company received from the Department of Justice earlier this year, which regarded an investigation to determine whether there had been a violation of the Sherman Act by sharing of pace data within the industry. The CID indicated that it was issued in connection with the Company's acquisition of Tribune. The Company believes these class action lawsuits are without merit and intends to vigorously defend against the allegations.

Other Events

In April 2018, Sinclair Vice President of Advanced Technology, Mark Aitken, was awarded the 2018 NAB Television Engineering Achievement Award for his leadership in the development of Next Gen TV and Sinclair Chief Revenue Officer, Rob Weisbord, was honored with the Technology Leadership Award, one of the most highly recognized tech awards in the TV industry, presented by the industry publication Broadcasting & Cable and TV Technology to executives who have become outstanding tech leaders.

In May 2018, Sinclair awarded its Broadcast Diversity Scholarship to seven applicants, distributing over \$30,000 in financial assistance to students demonstrating a promising future in the broadcast industry.

In June 2018, at the Company's Annual Shareholders' Meeting, Sinclair's shareholder's re-elected its eight Directors and ratified the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018.

In July 2018, Sinclair stations News 3 (KSNV) and the CW Las Vegas (KVCW) were named "2018 St. Jude Dream Home Station of the Year" for their successful campaign to raise \$850,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the giveaway of a home.

In August 2018, Sinclair's station, KRCR in Redding CA, partnered with the Salvation Army to aid short- and long-term disaster relief efforts for the victims of the CARR fire, with a mission to raise money to provide evacuees with basic necessities. Viewers contributed more than \$348,000 to the fundraising effort and Sinclair corporate contributed an additional \$25,000, to be used locally for the CARR fire victims.

Table of Contents

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The results of the businesses acquired during 2017 are included in our results of operations from their respective dates of acquisition. See Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets within the Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion of acquisitions. Additionally, any references to the first, third, or fourth quarters are to the three months ended March 31, September 30, and December 31, respectively, for the year being discussed. We have one reportable segment, “broadcast,” that is disclosed separately from our other and corporate activities.

## SEASONALITY/CYCLICALITY

Our operating results are usually subject to seasonal fluctuations. Usually, the second and fourth quarter operating results are higher than first and third quarters’ because advertising expenditures are increased in anticipation of certain seasonal and holiday spending by consumers.

Our operating results are usually subject to fluctuations from political advertising. In even numbered years, political spending is usually significantly higher than in odd numbered years due to advertising expenditures preceding local and national elections. Additionally, every four years, political spending is usually elevated further due to advertising expenditures preceding the presidential election.

## Operating Data

The following table sets forth our consolidated operating data for the periods presented (in millions):

	Three Months		Six Months Ended	
	Ended June 30,		June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Media revenues (a) (b)	\$695.9	\$637.2	\$1,339.5	\$1,244.3
Non-media revenues	34.2	15.0	56.0	34.9
Total revenues	730.1	652.2	1,395.5	1,279.2
Media production expenses (a)	300.8	269.5	589.4	527.9
Media selling, general and administrative expenses (a)	150.8	127.0	297.7	251.8
Depreciation and amortization expenses	90.9	95.9	188.8	196.4
Non-media expenses	31.0	16.1	52.2	34.5
Corporate general and administrative expenses	29.7	25.1	54.3	45.6
Gain on asset dispositions, net of impairment	(4.7 )	(0.2 )	(25.8 )	(53.5 )
Operating income	\$131.6	\$118.8	\$238.9	\$276.5
Net income attributable to Sinclair Broadcast Group	\$28.0	\$44.6	\$71.2	\$101.8

Our media related revenues and expenses are primarily derived from our broadcast segment, but also from our other media related business, including our national networks and content such as Tennis Channel, Comet, (a) CHARGE!, and non-broadcast digital properties. The results of our broadcast segment and the other media businesses are discussed further below under Broadcast Segment and Other, respectively.

See Revenue Recognition under Note 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (b) within the Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of the adoption of the new accounting principles for revenue recognition.

Table of Contents

## BROADCAST SEGMENT

The following table sets forth our revenue and expenses for our broadcast segment for the periods presented (in millions):

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Percent Change Increase / (Decrease)	Six Months Ended June 30,		Percent Change Increase / (Decrease)
	2018	2017		2018	2017	
Revenue:						
Advertising revenue, net of agency commissions	\$338.2	\$328.3	3.0%	\$637.1	\$638.3	(0.2)%
Distribution revenue	291.9	251.7	16.0%	579.1	500.8	15.6%
Other media revenues	12.1	11.0	10.0%	22.0	21.7	1.4%
Media revenues	\$642.2	\$591.0	8.7%	\$1,238.2	\$1,160.8	6.7%
Operating Expenses:						
Media production expenses	\$266.4	\$236.6	12.6%	\$533.1	\$469.5	13.5%
Media selling, general and administrative expenses	\$126.1	\$112.0	12.6%	\$250.9	\$224.5	11.8%
Amortization of program contract costs and net realizable value adjustments	\$24.7	\$28.9	(14.5)%	\$51.7	\$59.9	(13.7)%
Corporate general and administrative expenses	\$26.6	\$22.3	19.3%	\$48.3	\$41.3	16.9%
Depreciation and amortization expenses	\$59.0	\$59.9	(1.5)%	\$122.8	\$120.1	2.2%

## Revenue

Advertising revenue, net of agency commissions. Advertising revenue increased \$9.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017. The increase is primarily related to an increase in political advertising revenue of \$21.8 million, as 2018 is a political year, and \$12.8 million related to stations not included in the same period in 2017. These increases were partially offset by decreases in certain categories, notably a \$10.1 million and \$5.1 million decrease in automotive and fast food, respectively.

Advertising revenue decreased \$1.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017. The decrease is primarily related to decreases in certain categories, notably a \$22.3 million and \$9.1 million decrease in automotive and fast food, respectively, and the Super Bowl carried on fewer of our stations than in the prior year period. These decreases were partially offset by a \$21.2 million increase in political advertising, as 2018 is a political year, and a \$23.9 million increase related to stations not included in the same period in 2017.

No advertiser accounted for more than 1.2% and 1.1% of our advertising revenue for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018, respectively.

The following table sets forth our primary types of programming and their approximate percentages of advertising revenue, excluding digital revenue, for the periods presented:

Percent of Advertising  
Revenue for the



	Three Months		Six Months	
	Ended June		Ended June	
	30,	30,	30,	30,
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Local news	35.3%	33.5%	33.9%	31.8%
Syndicated/Other programming	30.0%	31.3%	30.1%	30.7%
Network programming	26.5%	26.9%	25.3%	26.4%
Sports programming	4.8%	4.5%	7.1%	7.2%
Paid programming	3.4%	3.8%	3.6%	3.9%

Table of Contents

The following table sets forth our affiliate percentages of advertising revenue for the periods presented:

		Percent of Advertising Revenue for the			
		Three Months		Six Months	
		Ended June		Ended June	
		30,		30,	
	# of Channels	2018	2017	2018	2017
ABC	41	31.0%	30.0%	30.0%	29.1%
FOX	59	23.1%	23.6%	23.1%	25.2%
CBS	30	19.2%	20.1%	19.2%	20.0%
NBC	24	14.3%	12.2%	14.6%	11.8%
CW	47	6.4%	7.2%	6.9%	7.1%
MNT	40	4.5%	5.4%	4.6%	5.3%
Other (a)	360	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.5%
Total	601				

We broadcast other programming from the following providers on our channels including: Antenna TV, Azteca, (a)Bounce Network, CHARGE!, Comet, CoziTV, Estrella TV, Get TV, Grit, Me TV, Movies!, Stadium Network, TBD, Telemundo, This TV, UniMas, Univision, and Weather.

Distribution revenue. Distribution revenue, which includes payments from MVPDs, virtual MVPDs, and OTT distributors for our broadcast signals, increased \$40.2 million and \$78.3 million for the three and six months ended June 30, 2018, respectively, when compared to the same period in 2017. Distribution revenue related to stations not included in the same three and six month period in 2017 was \$10.1 million and \$20.7 million, respectively. The remaining increase for the three and six month period was primarily related to an increase in rates, partially offset by fewer subscribers.

Table of Contents

Expenses

Media production expenses. The increase for the three months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, primarily relates to \$9.8 million from acquired stations not included in the same period of 2017 and \$28.0 million from increases in fees pursuant to network affiliation agreements. The increase for the six months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, primarily relates to \$19.1 million from acquired stations not included in the same period of 2017, \$58.2 million from increases in fees pursuant to network affiliation agreements and a \$4.8 million increase related to employee compensation cost.

Media selling, general and administrative expenses. The increase for the three months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, primarily relates to \$4.8 million from acquired stations not included in the same period of 2017, a \$2.5 million increase to digital license costs and a \$1.2 million increase related to information technology costs. The increase for the six months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, primarily relates to \$10.0 million from acquired stations not included in the same period of 2017, a \$5.5 million increase to digital license costs, a \$2.4 million increase to employee compensation cost, and a \$1.9 million increase related to information technology costs.

Amortization of program contract costs and net realizable value adjustments. The decrease for the three months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, primarily relates to \$3.3 million due to timing of amortization on long-term contracts and reduced renewal costs, partially offset by an increase of cost due to new programs added since the same period in 2017 and by amortization related to stations not included in the same period of 2017. The decrease for the six months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, primarily relates to \$6.5 million due to timing of amortization on long-term contracts and reduced renewal costs, partially offset by an increase of cost due to new programs added since the same period in 2017 and by amortization related to stations not included in the same period of 2017.

Corporate general and administrative expenses. See explanation under Corporate and Unallocated Expenses.

Depreciation and amortization expenses. The decrease for the three months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, relates to assets becoming fully depreciated, partially offset by \$4.2 million related to depreciation and amortization from acquired stations not included in the same period of 2017. The increase for the six months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, primarily relates to \$9.2 million of depreciation and amortization from acquired stations not included in the same period of 2017 and an increase from new projects placed in service during the first quarter of 2018, partially offset by assets becoming fully depreciated.

Table of Contents

## OTHER

The following table sets forth our revenues and expenses for our original networks and content, non-broadcast digital and internet solutions, technical services, and non-media investments (Other) for the periods presented (in millions):

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Percent Change Increase / (Decrease)	Six Months Ended June 30,		Percent Change Increase/(Decrease)
	2018	2017		2018	2017	
Revenue:						
Advertising revenue, net of agency commissions	\$20.9	\$14.4	45.1%	\$38.3	\$22.8	68.0%
Distribution revenue	27.5	27.0	1.9%	54.8	53.8	1.9%
Other media revenues	5.1	4.9	4.1%	8.2	6.8	20.6%
Media revenues	\$53.5	\$46.3	15.6%	\$101.3	\$83.4	21.5%
Non-media revenues	\$34.3	\$15.0	128.7%	\$56.0	\$34.9	60.5%
Operating Expenses:						
Media expenses	\$58.9	\$47.4	24.3%	\$103.1	\$84.9	21.4%
Non-media expenses	\$32.2	\$13.9	131.7%	\$54.7	\$33.6	62.8%
Corporate general and administrative expenses	\$0.2	\$0.2	—%	\$0.5	\$0.5	—%
Loss (gain) on asset dispositions and impairments	\$3.4	\$(0.1)	n/m	\$59.5	\$(53.1)	n/m
(Loss) income from equity investments	\$(17.5)	\$1.5	n/m	\$(30.0)	\$0.1	n/m

n/m — not meaningful

Table of Contents

Media revenues and expenses. Media revenue included within Other primarily relates to our original networks and content, as well as our non-broadcast digital and internet businesses. The increase for the three months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, is primarily related to a \$6.0 million increase in advertising revenue related our owned networks and expansion of our non-broadcast digital and internet initiatives. The increase for the six months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, is primarily related to a \$15.7 million increase in advertising revenue, mostly related to the expansion of our non-broadcast digital and internet initiatives and from our owned networks.

Media expenses included within Other relate to the media production expenses and media selling, general and administrative expenses related to the operations of our network, content, and non-broadcast digital and internet businesses. The increase for the three months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, is primarily related to a \$7.4 million increase to selling, general and administrative cost related to our non-broadcast digital and internet initiatives, a \$1.6 million increase to program and production expenses related to our content business, a \$1.3 million increase to employee compensation cost, and a \$1.1 million increase related to higher distribution cost for our owned networks. The increase for the six months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, is primarily related to a \$15.9 million increase to selling, general and administrative costs related to our non-broadcast digital and internet initiatives, a \$3.7 million increase to program and production expenses related to our content business, a \$2.0 million increase to employee compensation cost, a \$1.4 million increase related to information technology services, and a \$1.2 million increase related to higher distribution cost for our owned networks. The increases were partially offset by a \$10.0 million decrease to our college and local sports network.

Non-media revenues and expenses. Non-media revenue included within Other primarily relates to our technical businesses and consolidated investments in real estate and other business ventures. The increase to revenue for the three months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, is primarily related to a \$17.9 million increase in broadcast equipment sales and a \$1.6 million increase in sales from real estate projects. The increase for the six months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, is primarily related to a \$29.0 million increase in broadcast equipment sales, partially offset by a \$7.8 million decrease due to the sale of a consolidated investment in an alarm monitoring business in March 2017.

Non-media expenses included within Other primarily relates to our technical businesses and consolidated investments in real estate and other business ventures. Additionally, non-media expenses include costs to develop the Advanced Television Systems Committee's 3.0 standard (ATSC 3.0). The increase to expenses for the three months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, is primarily related to a \$11.1 million increase in costs due to the increased volume of broadcast equipment sales, a \$2.3 million increase in higher sales from a real estate project, a \$1.9 million increase in ATSC 3.0 development expenses, and a \$1.6 million increase to employee compensation cost. The increase to expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, is primarily related to a \$17.0 million due to increased volume of broadcast equipment sales, a \$3.4 million increase in ATSC 3.0 development costs, a \$3.0 million increase to employee compensation cost, and a \$1.3 million increase in higher sales from a real estate project. The increases were partially offset by a \$6.0 million decrease in expenses related to the sale of a consolidated investment in an alarm monitoring business in early March 2017.

Corporate general and administrative expenses. See explanation under Corporate and Unallocated Expenses.

Loss (gain) on asset dispositions and impairments. During the six months ended June 30, 2018, we recorded a non-cash impairment of \$59.6 million relating to a real estate development project which is currently reflected as held for sale in our consolidated financial statements. During the first quarter of 2017, we recognized a gain of \$53.0 million related to the sale of Alarm in March 2017, of which \$12.3 million was attributable to non-controlling interests recorded within net income attributable to the noncontrolling interest on our consolidated statements of operations.

Income (loss) from equity investments. Losses from equity investments for three and six months ended June 30, 2018 were \$17.5 million and \$30.0 million, respectively. Income from equity investments for the three and six months ended June 30, 2017 were \$1.5 million and \$0.1 million, respectively. The decrease primarily related to investments not included in the same periods of 2017.

Table of Contents

## CORPORATE AND UNALLOCATED EXPENSES

The following table presents our corporate and unallocated expenses for the periods presented (in millions):

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Percent Change Increase/ (Decrease)	Six Months Ended June 30,		Percent Change Increase/ (Decrease)
	2018	2017		2018	2017	
Corporate general and administrative expenses	\$29.7	\$25.1	18.3%	\$54.3	\$45.6	19.1%
Interest expense	\$92.3	\$51.0	81.0%	\$162.0	\$108.3	49.6%
Income tax benefit (provision)	\$3.3	\$(24.9)	n/m	\$18.9	\$(53.5)	n/m
Loss from extinguishment of debt	\$—	\$—	n/m	\$—	\$1.4	n/m

n/m — not meaningful

Corporate general and administrative expenses. We allocate most of our corporate general and administrative expenses to the broadcast segment. The table above and the explanation that follows cover total consolidated corporate general and administrative expenses.

Corporate general and administrative expenses increased in total by \$4.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, primarily related to a \$3.3 million increase in group health insurance costs. Corporate general and administrative expenses increased in total by \$8.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017, primarily related to a \$5.9 million increase to group health insurance costs, as well as a \$2.9 million increase to legal and consulting fees related to the pending Tribune acquisition, partially offset by a \$1.9 million decrease in stock based compensation.

We expect corporate general and administrative expenses to decrease in the third quarter of 2018 compared to the second quarter of 2018.

Interest expense. The table above and explanation that follows cover total consolidated interest expense. Interest expense increased by \$41.3 million for the three months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017. The increase is primarily related to \$39.3 million in ticking fees on undrawn amounts under the new term B loans secured for the financing of the Tribune acquisition, and the year-over-year increases in LIBOR, partially offset by a decrease of \$1.0 million related to Term Loan A-1 having matured during the second quarter, as discussed in Note 3. Notes Payable and Commercial Bank Financing within the Consolidated Financial Statements. Interest expense increased by \$53.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017. The increase is primarily related to \$56.3 million in ticking fees on undrawn amounts under the new term B loans secured for the financing of the Tribune acquisition.

Income tax benefit (provision). The income tax benefit for the three months ended June 30, 2018, including the effects of the noncontrolling interest, was \$3.3 million as compared to an income tax provision of \$24.9 million during the same period in 2017. The change in the provision to a benefit for the three months ended June 30, 2018, as compared to the same period in 2017, is primarily due to lower federal statutory rate in 2018 as a result of the enactment of the TCJA; lower book income in 2018; \$5.2 million of federal tax credits related to investments in sustainability initiatives in 2018; and a \$4.2 million state tax benefit in 2018 related to a change in apportionment estimates on recognition of previously deferred tax gain from the sale of certain broadcast spectrum in connection with the Broadcast Incentive Auction, as discussed in Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets within the Consolidated

Financial Statements.

The income tax benefit for the six months ended June 30, 2018, including the effects of the noncontrolling interest, was \$18.9 million as compared to an income tax provision of \$53.3 million during the same period in 2017. The change in the provision to a benefit for the six months ended June 30, 2018, as compared to the same period in 2017, is primarily due to lower book income in 2018; lower federal statutory rate in 2018 as a result of the enactment of the TCJA; a \$17.7 million permanent benefit recognized from an IRS tax ruling on the treatment of the gain from the sale of certain broadcast spectrum in connection with the Broadcast Incentive Auction, as discussed in Note 2.

Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets within the Consolidated Financial Statements; and \$6.3 million of federal tax credits related to investments in sustainability initiatives in 2018.

Loss from extinguishment of debt. In January 2017, we entered into an amendment to our Bank Credit Agreement that includes extended maturity for some Term Loan positions and more favorable rates. As a result, we recognized a loss of \$1.4 million from the extinguishment of debt.



Table of Contents

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

As of June 30, 2018, we had net working capital of approximately \$1,110.7 million, including \$1,014.7 million in cash and cash equivalent balances. Borrowing capacity under our revolving credit facility was \$484.7 million as of June 30, 2018. Cash generated by our operations and borrowing capacity under the Bank Credit Agreement are used as our primary sources of liquidity.

During the six months ended June 30, 2018, \$313.1 million of restricted cash as of December 31, 2017, became unrestricted. See Broadcast Incentive Auction under Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets within the Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion.

We anticipate that existing cash and cash equivalents, cash flow from our operations, and borrowing capacity under the Bank Credit Agreement will be sufficient to satisfy our debt service obligations, capital expenditure requirements, and working capital needs for the next twelve months. For our long-term liquidity needs, in addition to the sources described above, we may rely upon the issuance of long-term debt, the issuance of equity or other instruments convertible into or exchangeable for equity, or the sale of non-core assets. However, there can be no assurance that additional financing or capital or buyers of our non-core assets will be available, or that the terms of any transactions will be acceptable or advantageous to us. See Incremental Term B Facility related to Tribune acquisition under Note 3. Notes Payable and Commercial Bank Financing within the Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion of our expected financing arrangements for the acquisition of Tribune.

For the quarter ended June 30, 2018, we were in compliance with all of the covenants related to our Bank Credit Agreement and senior unsecured notes.

## Sources and Uses of Cash

The following table sets forth our cash flows for the periods presented (in millions):

	Three Months		Six Months	
	Ended June 30,		Ended June 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net cash flows from operating activities	\$155.8	\$71.6	\$256.7	\$141.3
Cash flows from (used in) investing activities:				
Acquisition of property and equipment	\$(30.0)	\$(12.7)	\$(52.3)	\$(33.5)
Acquisition of businesses, net of cash acquired	—	(20.3)	—	(28.3)
Proceeds from the sale of assets	1.0	(0.5)	1.0	194.6
Investments in equity investees	(10.2)	(17.6)	(18.0)	(20.7)
Distributions from equity investees	4.3	1.0	15.2	4.3
Other	(1.5)	(4.6)	(3.3)	(13.0)
Net cash flows from (used in) investing activities	\$(36.4)	\$(54.7)	\$(57.4)	\$103.4
Cash flows from (used in) financing activities:				
Proceeds from notes payable, commercial bank financing and capital leases	\$1.7	\$—	\$2.0	\$163.1
Repayments of notes payable, commercial bank financing and capital leases	(125.1)	(16.8)	(142.1)	(301.2)
Net proceeds from the sale of Class A Common Stock	—	—	—	487.9
Dividends paid on Class A and Class B Common Stock	(18.4)	(18.4)	(36.8)	(34.7)
Other	0.5	(2.5)	(2.1)	(20.4)

Net cash flows from (used in) financing activities	\$ (141.3)	\$ (37.7)	\$ (179.0)	\$ 294.7
--	------------	-----------	------------	----------

#### Operating Activities

Net cash flows from operating activities increased during the three and six months ended June 30, 2018 compared to the same periods in 2017. The increase is primarily related to higher cash received from customers.

## Table of Contents

### Investing Activities

Net cash flows used in investing activities decreased during the three months ended June 30, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. The decrease is primarily related to a reduction in cash paid for acquisitions of businesses and investments offset by an increase in cash paid for property and equipment. See Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets within the Consolidated Financial Statements for further information.

Net cash flows from investing activities decreased during the six months ended June 30, 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. The decrease is primarily related to higher proceeds received from the sale of assets, specifically related to the sale of Alarm, during the first quarter of 2017.

In the third quarter of 2018, we anticipate capital expenditures to increase from the second quarter of 2018. As discussed under Note 2. Acquisitions and Dispositions of Assets within the Consolidated Financial Statements, certain of our channels have been reassigned in conjunction with the FCC repacking process. For the third quarter, we expect total capital expenditures related to the spectrum repack to be \$10 million. We expect that the majority of expenditures will be reimbursed from the fund administered by the FCC.

### Financing Activities

Net cash flows from financing activities decreased for the three months ended June 30, 2018, compared to the same period in 2017. The decrease is primarily due to the repayment of Term Loan A-1 debt under the Bank Credit Agreement during the second quarter of 2018.

Net cash flows from financing activities decreased during the six months ended June 30, 2018, compared to the same period in 2017. The decrease is primarily related to the receipt of proceeds from the public offering of Class A Common Stock during the first quarter of 2017.

In August 2018, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.18 per share. Future dividends on our common shares, if any, will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend on several factors including our results of operations, cash requirements and surplus, financial condition, covenant restrictions, and other factors that the Board of Directors may deem relevant.

### CONTRACTUAL CASH OBLIGATIONS

During 2018, we renewed certain network affiliation agreements which increased estimated contractual amounts owed for program content, which may included variable fee components such as subscriber levels, as of June 30, 2018 by \$1,336.7 million through 2022. As of June 30, 2018, there were no other material changes to our contractual cash obligations.

### CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Other than discussed below, there were no changes to critical accounting policies and estimates from those disclosed in Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates under Part II. Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations within our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

See Recent Accounting Pronouncements under Note 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies with the Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of new accounting guidance. See Revenue Recognition under Note 1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies within the

Consolidated Financial Statements for a more detailed discussion of the adoption of the new accounting principles for revenue recognition.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

There have been no material changes from the quantitative and qualitative discussion about market risk previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Table of Contents

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures and Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our management, under the supervision and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the design and effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures and our internal control over financial reporting as of June 30, 2018.

The term “disclosure controls and procedures,” as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act, means controls and other procedures of a company that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC’s rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives and management necessarily applies its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures.

The term “internal control over financial reporting,” as defined in Rules 13a-15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act, means a process designed by, or under the supervision of our Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officers and effected by our Board of Directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and includes those policies and procedures that:

- pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets;
- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP and that our receipts and expenditures are being made in accordance with authorizations of management or our Board of Directors; and
- provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of our assets that could have a material adverse effect on our financial statements.

Assessment of Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Based on the evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of June 30, 2018, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of such date, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the quarter ended June 30, 2018, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Table of Contents

Limitations on the Effectiveness of Controls

Management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, do not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures or our internal control over financial reporting will prevent all errors and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within our company have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by management's override of the control. The design of any system of controls also is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions; over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Because of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected.

Table of Contents

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are party to lawsuits and claims from time to time in the ordinary course of business. Actions currently pending are in various stages and no material judgments or decisions have been rendered by hearing boards or courts in connection with such actions.

See Litigation and other legal matters under Note 4. Commitments and Contingencies for discussion related the HDO released by the FCC to commence a hearing before an ALJ with respect to the Company's acquisition of Tribune.

See Litigation and other legal matters under Note 4. Commitments and Contingencies for discussion related to certain class action lawsuits filed in United States District Court against the Company, Tribune Media Company, Tribune Broadcasting Company, LLC and other defendants, including some that are unnamed.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

There have been no material changes to the Risk Factors contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

None.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

None.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

Table of Contents

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Description
31.1	<u>Certification by Christopher S. Ripley, as Chief Executive Officer of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § 7241).</u>
31.2	<u>Certification by Lucy Rutishauser, as Chief Financial Officer of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. § 7241).</u>
32.1	<u>Certification by Christopher S. Ripley, as Chief Executive Officer of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) of the Exchange Act and § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (18 U.S.C § 1350).</u>
32.2	<u>Certification by Lucy Rutishauser, as Chief Financial Officer of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) of the Exchange Act and § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (18 U.S.C § 1350).</u>
10.1	<u>Asset Purchase Agreement for the Sale of Television Stations KCPO, KDVR, KSTU, KSWB-TV, KTXL, WJW, WSFL-TV by and among Sinclair Television Group, Inc., Tribune Media Company and Fox Television Stations, LLC dated May 8, 2018.</u>
101.INS	<u>XBRL Instance Document</u>
101.SCH	<u>XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema</u>
101.CAL	<u>XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase</u>
101.LAB	<u>XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase</u>
101.PRE	<u>XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase</u>
101.DEF	<u>XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase</u>



Table of Contents

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report on Form 10-Q to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized on the 8th day of August 2018.

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC.

By: /s/ David R. Bochenek

David R. Bochenek

Senior Vice President/Chief Accounting Officer/Corporate Controller

(Authorized Officer and Chief Accounting Officer)