



Tribune CEO: Protests against Kochs "premature"

By: May 16, 2013

Tribune Co. CEO Peter Liguori responded to spreading protests against the company's possible sale of newspaper properties to Koch Industries by sending an email to employees saying that such speculation is "premature", according to a report by the Chicago Tribune, which is Tribune Co.'s flagship publication.

Even though Koch has not publicly expressed interest, reports have indicated it is pursuing a purchase in earnest. However, protesters object to the libertarian activism of the company's owners, Charles and David Koch, billionaires who have provided financial support for the Cato Institute and Americans for Prosperity, among other political initiatives. The Tribune reported that if Koch Industries is interested, it is among about 40 parties seeking to buy at least one of Tribune Co.'s newspapers.

LA Observed posted the full text of Liguori's email, which emphasizes that Tribune Co.'s public stance is that it may not even sell its newspapers; it will act to "maximize shareholder value", and "no decision to sell our publishing assets is imminent".

Labor groups and other activists have carried out extensive protests in Los Angeles, and another protest is scheduled for Orlando today, according to the Orlando Sentinel, which is also a Tribune Co. newspaper.