

Regarding MM Docket No. 98-35

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I live in Minneapolis, MN and before 1996 there were at least a couple diverse stations (Rev 105) other than the college radio stations. Since the Telecommunications Act, every channel I turn to plays the same top 40 songs that I was sick of two or more months ago. I'm sure this makes things a lot harder for new artists to break into the business and be played as well. This is a classic example of the rich getting richer and I feel I speak for the general public in saying that today's radio is more carbon-copied than it used to be.

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I'm writing this letter in regards to the 1998 Biennial Regulatory review on the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This Act seems to have gone somewhat unnoticed in cable and telephone companies in my area, but it has demolished the vibrant, progressive rock radio Minneapolis used to know. Music radio stations have regressed back to the 80's, rarely playing new music. This is not what the people want to hear!

Radio is no longer representative of our local music scene, rather it has become merely an advertising outlet. There is so little diversity in radio these days that it threatens what the Supreme Court defines as competition and diversity. There is absolutely no "public interest" in what we hear over the airwaves anymore. This downfall of the radio industry has happened in the last two years. It seems that as soon as the Telecommunications Act was first presented to me in my Mass Communications class at Hamline University, less than a month later every rock station in the Twin Cities was bought out by a larger company. This resulted in a sudden programming change from modern 90's music to the rock and roll of the 1980's. This is not the direction music is going, so why must we hear it that way on the radio? Please, let the radio industry take back what they had instead of allowing consolidated corporate ownership ruin true American culture. It's taking its toll in radio, and it is or will affect every other medium of our society.

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