

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

| | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| In the Matter of |) | |
| 2002 Biennial Regulatory |) | |
| Review – Review of the |) | MB Docket No. 02-277 |
| Commission’s Broadcast |) | |
| Ownership Rules and Other Rules |) | |
| Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 |) | |
| Of the Telecommunications Act |) | |
| Of 1996 |) | |
| |) | |
| Cross – Ownership of Broadcast |) | MM Docket No. 01-235 |
| Stations and Newspapers |) | |
| |) | |
| Rules and Policies Concerning |) | MM Docket No. 01-317 |
| Multiple Ownership of Radio |) | |
| Broadcast Stations in Local |) | |
| Markets |) | |
| |) | |
| Definition of Radio Markets |) | MM Docket No. 00-244 |

**OPPOSITION OF THE NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA TO REQUEST
FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

The Newspaper Association of America (“NAA”), by its attorneys, hereby opposes the request of Nickolaus E. Leggett for an extension of time for filing comments and reply comments in the above-referenced proceeding. Mr. Leggett requests that the FCC extend the specified initial comment period from 60 days to 180 days and the combined period for comments and replies from 90 days to 270 days. NAA submits that Mr. Leggett’s request is not justified and should be rejected.

Following the explicit mandate of Congress in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Commission is required to review all of its ownership rules biennially and to modify or eliminate those that cannot be shown to be necessary to serve the public interest in light of competition. This consolidated proceeding has its roots in the original 1998 biennial review proceeding.

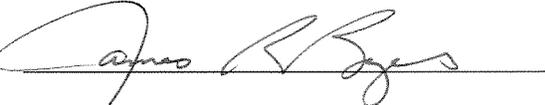
Indeed, the agency's review of the national and local television and radio ownership rules dates back to the early 1990s. And the Commission has not engaged in a meaningful review of the newspaper/broadcast cross-ownership rule since its adoption in 1975 -- more than a quarter century ago. The FCC has already compiled a very extensive record with respect to the ownership rules in general and the newspaper/broadcast ban in particular, and Mr. Leggett has advanced no sound reason why the proceeding cannot be conducted in the time frame designated by the FCC in its September 12, 2002 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

It is the Commission's policy "that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted."¹ Indeed, the Commission has refused to extend filing deadlines unless a petitioner demonstrates "exceptional circumstances" to justify its extension request.² Here, Mr. Leggett has advanced no sufficient reason for extending the current comment schedule.

Accordingly, Mr. Leggett's request should be promptly denied.

Respectfully submitted,

NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

By: 

James R. Bayes
Nia C. Mathis
of
WILEY, REIN & FIELDING, LLP
1776 K St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Its Attorneys

October 8, 2002

¹ 47 C.F.R. §1.46(a).

² See *FM Channel Assignment*, 102 F.C.C.2d 27, 29 (1985) (request for one day extension of time denied absent exceptional circumstances).

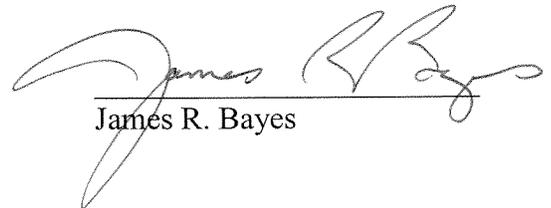
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true copies of the foregoing "Opposition To Request For Extension Of Time" were deposited in the United States mail, first class postage prepaid, on the 9th day of October, 2002, addressed to the following:

Nickolaus E. Leggett, N3NL
1432 Northgate Square, Apt. 2A
Reston, VA 20190-3748

QUALEX INTERNATIONAL
Portals II
445 12th St. SW, Room CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

Linda Senecal
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Industry Analysis Division
Media Bureau
445 12th St. SW, Room 2-C438
Washington, DC 20554


James R. Bayes