

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -  
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules  
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,  
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,  
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I strongly believe that have a many viewpoints, interpretations of news, and editorial "picks" of news stories is essential for a successful democracy. I don't believe that big business should be allowed to dictate what the American people know about the events and issues of the world. Unfortunately, the majority of the press in this country is already owned by a few large corporations. Please don't allow these near monopolies to become even larger! It's been said that the problems in the world won't be solved by the minds that created them. Please support and encourage independent press - don't make it harder for them to survive; Please support and encourage American's to hear news from many sources - don't make it harder for us to do so.

I am consistently amazed at how much news that i consider valuable and important isn't in the evening news or the mainstream daily newspaper or mainstream weekly news magazines. Also, i quite frequently find the editorials and "soft news" found in non-mainstream sources to be more informative and/or inspiring than what's found in the mainstream sources.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Janine Mahraun

