

02-277

Sandra Wake
P.O. Box 131
Covelo, CA 95428

December 11, 2002

Michael Powell, FCC Chair
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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RE: PROTECT MEDIA DEMOCRACY

To Chairman Powell:

America's airwaves belong to the American people, and the FCC is mandated to manage them: in the public interest. Independent, critical and genuinely representative media are crucial to a healthy **democracy**. Without **them**, citizens lose the means to control and participate in **the public** debate that sets the **nation's** political agenda. In the absence of an effective regulatory agency, corporate control of the media damages our democracy.

I want the FCC to protect the public interest by maintaining:

- The newspaper/broadcast cross-ownership rule **to** continue to prevent owners of a broadcast station from owning daily newspapers in the same market.
- A national broadcast ownership cap to prevent one company from owning broadcast stations that reach more than 35% of U.S. households.
- The local radio ownership rule to **cap** the number of radio **stations** a company *can* own in a **single** listening area **to** eight or less, depending on size.
- Duopoly rule to limit a company to owning two broadcast TV stations in a given market.
- Dual network rule to bar the major TV networks from **merging** with each other.

Chain ownership of newspapers, TV and radio stations would likely increase dramatically with media deregulation, resulting in a drop in news quality. **As** it is, dissenting political viewpoints are routinely marginalized in **national mainstream media**. **The** interests and perspectives of minorities, immigrants, **women** and others are under represented. We need more public affairs programs and local broadcasts that only smaller, niche and regional media outlets can provide.

I **urge** you to make a stand for democracy, to preserve and strengthen the rules that limit media consolidation and promote public **access** to **media** in your **Biennial Review**.

Sincerely,
Sandra Wake
Sandra Wake

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December 21, 2002

Michael Powell, Director
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C 20554

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Dear Director Powell:

I am strongly opposed to the proposed changes to FCC rules governing media consolidation. A full spectrum of opinions and reporting is essential if our country is to return to a fully functioning democracy.

In the last decade, the range of opinion and breadth of information in the print and broadcast media has already become far too narrow because of media consolidation. TV stations, radio stations, and print media now follow the biases of their corporate sponsors. This has become true of "public" TV and radio in recent years as well. Those biases mean that vital information and a wide range of opinions are not available to a majority of the American public.

The FCC must increase rather than reduce the number of media owners. I urge you to create more diversity rather than to further limit it. The airwaves belong to the public. As a member of that public, I want their ownership returned to a broad spectrum of viewpoints.

Sincerely,



Anne Fitzmaurice
2329 Curtis Street
Berkeley, CA 94702