Gentlemen:
Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the FCC Broadcast ownership rules.

My general view is that a democracy is only as good as its media and the government has allowed the consolidation of ownership of media to occur to such an extent that the United States has become an oligopoly. Because of the concentration of ownership, advertising rates are artificially high. Consequently, politicians must sell their souls to moneyed interests like Microsoft, cable companies, etc. to be able to tell their stories to the public. Those who don't, can't reach the public or even promote a better discussion of the issues. If the public can't get informed on issues, it cannot make good decisions at the ballot box. George Bush raised record amounts of money for his campaign and the last congressional campaign by selling out to the moneyed interests enabling him to dominate the election though media spending.

The current concentration of power prevents issues from even being discussed at election time. Key issues are buried until after the election. The last election was a case in point. Though the insiders knew that George Bush would use tax policy—labeled "tax reform"-- to pay off his contributors, not a single media I read, heard or viewed brought up the issue of tax policy before the election. So we voted for people without knowing their stand on this pivotal issue today.

With regard to consideration of the six rules you are reconsidering, one truth applies: Monopolies are bad for just about everybody but politicians and some key bureaucrats. A corollary is that most of these conglomerates are too big for human beings to run fairly and efficiently. I have worked for a couple of big cable companies and they were all slow moving and inefficient play things of the MeEOs.

Specifically, I oppose cross-ownership (1), though the alliances and collusions is so heavy today as to make the point mute. I strongly support limits on the number of radio stations (2) that can be held by a single entity or individual or group. I support limitations on concentration of TV ownership. I likewise oppose changes to (4), (5) and (6) unless they involved further divestiture of media form the large holding companies. Example abound for keeping things small and efficient: example, best thing that could happen to the Baby Bells would be to break them up by state. After the scandals at Qwest, Worldcom, etc., can you imagine the efficiencies and the savings in executive pay!

I am certain that the FCC will proceed to knock down these few remaining bulwarks of our past democracy because you are just the puppets of the politicians who were elected with contributions make to bring about these changes. You have a grand record of incompetence in protecting the public interest. Your sale of the public airwaves for fixed fees instead of royalties was a titanic example of your interest in catering to big donors, excluding small business and further corrupting the free enterprise system. We expect little of you and you consistently underwhelm. God -

with a little g – help us.