



March 20, 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

RE: Ex Parte Notice. MB Docket No. 02-277, MM Docket Nos. 01-235, 01-317, 00-244. 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; Cross-Ownership of Broadcast Stations and Newspapers; Rules and Policies Concerning Multiple Ownership of Radio Broadcast Stations in Local Markets; Definition of Radio Markets.

On March 19, 2003, Debbie Goldman of the Communications Workers of America and Dr. Dean Baker of the Center for Economic and Policy Research met with Catherine Bohigian, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Kevin Martin.

The discussion focused on five issues: 1) Television and newspapers as the dominant source for local news and information; 2) television and newspapers as separate local product markets; 3) television and newspaper local market concentration; 4) ownership rules as necessary to protect and promote viewpoint diversity; and 5) CWA’s proposal for structural ownership rules. We discussed the CWA proposal for a single local media ownership rule. The proposed rule would prohibit combinations in concentrated local media product markets, and permit combinations in unconcentrated local media product markets conditioned on a requirement to maintain separate news and editorial staff to protect viewpoint diversity.

The hand-outs used during the discussion were previously entered into the record on March 5, 2003.

Sincerely,

Debbie Goldman, Research Economist
Research and Development Department

cc: Catherine Bohigian