

I have wish I had time to fully express my feelings on this subject. I believe that it is the fact that many intelligent and informed people lead frantic lives filled with more information than we can processes that distracted us and caused us to allow so much of our democracy to be eroded away. Do not be take the distraction as an opportunity to erode away the last of our democratic protections and diversity of viewpoints. The protection of the public from one monolithic voice is a key corner stone necessary for independent analytical thought in the public at large. I wish I could express myself more eloquently and effectively, but I do know that removal the ownership rules is a very negative thing for America. In fact, I think the rules are already too slack and ownership should be further restricted and there should be more enforcement of the policy that the media soruces are operating for the public good and have a responsibility to inform us, not just entertain us.

Below is a form letter which I am sure you have received many times over, but which I completely agree with.

Thank you,
Brian DeVane

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 do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to 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.