

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Mr. Michael Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Feb. 24, 2003

ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Powell:

We understand the Commission is considering repeal of a rule which limits the number of TV stations, radio stations and newspapers that one corporation or person may own in the same community.

We think such a repeal would be a TERRIBLE MISTAKE and certainly not in the public interest. The inevitable result of such action, we believe, would be further consolidation of media outlets in the hands of fewer and fewer corporations and individuals. We have already seen this happen in radio.

Following previous relaxation of the FCC rule limiting same-ownership of radio stations, the Clear Channel corporation now owns three of the four stations in Frankfort. A longtime announcer at one of the stations, who had become something of an institution in terms of public-service programs, was let go. Now, more of the program content is produced outside Frankfort by those with less knowledge of and concern about Frankfort.

Consolidation allows certain efficiencies which may be justified in manufacturing. But when ownership of newsrooms is consolidated, there are fewer reporters to keep watch on government and fewer voices of opinion to be heard. Consolidation chips away at public vigilance, which, as was said long ago, is the price of freedom.

Repeal of the present rule almost certainly will lead to more chain ownership of newspapers, and we have seen the effects of that in our state's largest newspaper, the Louisville Courier-Journal. The C-J, under the former ownership of a Louisville family, was rated among the nation's top 10 papers and won several Pulitzer prizes. Since it was bought by the nation's largest newspaper chain, Gannett, based in Virginia, the paper devotes less resources and space to reporting on state and local government.

Please OPPOSE any relaxation of the present cross-ownership rule. Repeal of the rule might be in the interest of large media corporations, but it would NOT be in the public interest which, as we understand it, you are directed by law to uphold.

Respectfully submitted,

*Livingston Taylor*  
*Sarah Taylor*

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Livingston and Sarah Taylor  
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Mr. Johnathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Feb. 24, 2003

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Dear Mr. Adelstein:

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*Sarah Taylor*

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Mr. Michael Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Mr. Copps:

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*Sarah Taylor*

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Ms. Kathleen Abernathy  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12th St. SW  
 Washington, DC 20554

Feb. 24, 2003

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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