

No more media ownership consolidation! Docket #02-277

Dear Chairman Powell,

I respectfully disagree with your views on media ownership and your push to relax ownership rules. Over the past twenty years, radio listeners in the Washington, D.C. area have seen their stations bought up by Clear Channel and Infinity Broadcasting, reformatted, and homogenized. Printed media readers may or may not have even noticed as their magazines and newspapers were increasingly brought under the umbrella and control of large corporations. Television viewers continue to be frustrated by the unresponsiveness of their large cable operators, and remain ignorant of viewpoints other than what the few major broadcasters provide. This situation is already endangering this nation's form of democracy as it contributes to the death of an informed citizenry. Further deregulation of ownership at this point will be disastrous.

Trusting the internet to counterbalance consolidated corporate ownership of mainstream media outlets is unrealistic at this time. The online media is still immature, inaccessible to many, and has yet to develop into a viable alternative news source. It may someday, but we need mainstream media diversity now!

Sincerely,  
Garrett McWilliams