

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

I urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to retain ALL of the current media ownership rules that are under review. We need more diversity in media ownership, not less. To suggest that the existence of the Internet, the World Wide Web, and numerous widely read web logs (Blogs) should give us access to sufficient diversity in media perspectives is the purest of fantasies. As one who is quite expert in this area, I suggest that the FCC commissioners and their staffs take off the blindfolds neatly placed by big conglomerates who want to own all access to the media.

An uneducated public is a public that is easy to dupe into war and into concessions of liberty and freedom. We have already seen that danger work to near perfection; to increase the concentration of media ownership would exacerbate a horrendously unacceptable situation and move America one step closer to a fascist state.

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 has become more limited.

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.

Thank you,

Dan Shafer  
14 Loma Vista Place  
Monterey, CA 93940-6018