

Dear FCC Commissioners:

As you prepare to vote to further deregulate the media, I would like to express my strong opposition to this proposal. I believe that deregulation will further increase the influence of large media corporations and lessen diversity on the airwaves. I have witnessed first hand the negative effects of the 1996 Telecommunications Act and fear that further easing of regulations will only compound the problem. Therefore, I urge you to please vote "no."

For example, Clear Channel Communications has acquired many of the major AM and FM radio stations in the Oklahoma City market, where I live. While one would think that ownership would be transparent, it is hardly that. Over the last several years, I have seen a consistent decline in the quality of programming on these radio stations. Not only is local news coverage poor, but national news is usually only limited to sound bytes. Essentially, it seems that the radio stations are only operating for profit. There is rampant use of the same announcers/reporters on different stations and even the morning show on one FM station has been nationalized. I am appalled at the declining quality of radio in the United States and fear that the same will happen to TV and newspapers if you vote to change the rules on Monday.

Furthermore, I am an individual who still doesn't own a cell phone; therefore, I use pay phones every once in a while. Immediately after the 1996 act went into effect, pay phone rates jumped to 35 cents. Officials assured consumers that once competition would be in place, rates would come down. On the contrary, many pay phones nowadays have jumped to 50 cents a call.

In conclusion, we already have too many media conglomerates in operation. Our view of the world is shrinking as a result and the core of our democracy is being threatened. Therefore, I would encourage you to VOTE NO on June 2. This is not a time for deregulation. Instead, we should look at how we can restore the quality of the media in

the U.S. Certainly, everyone can agree that the quality of programming provided by a media company should be paramount to the number of stations it owns.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anu Pugalia
7328 NW 114th Terrace
Oklahoma City, OK 73162-2707