

02-277

**From:** Roy Flanigan  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 7:25 AM  
**Subject:** Deregulation

Dear Mr. Powell,

You have received a letter from recording artists opposing further deregulation of station ownership -- that doesn't go far enough. There needs to be some way to reverse the "sterilization" of our media as a result of the mega-corporate ownership. Free speech is another casualty of having a few large corporations own so many media venues. Who in their right mind can deny that, for example, the reporting of the "news" on the Fox network must largely reflect Mr. Murdoch's political leanings? Slowly our "free press" is becoming a mouthpiece for large corporate interests... propaganda is replacing objectivity. It is your job to prevent this.

Roy Flanigan  
7015 Colonial Drive  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

**From:** WILLIAMF HUMPHRIES  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 7:54 AM  
**Subject:** deregulation

Dear Commissioner Powell:

I strongly urge you and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin and Adelstein to allow for much greater input by the public regarding your proposal to completely deregulate the ownership of TV and radio stations in local markets.

This idea is ill advised at best. The earlier partial deregulation has already proven it's harm to diversity, quality local programming and most alarming; the virtual elimination of divergent opinions through local public interest forum programming.

The unintended but insidious result of allowing major corporations to own as many stations as they desire is to create a monolithic TV and radio culture where the only voice heard by the people is that of the corporate ownership of those stations.

The only way to protect the public and prevent such erosion of our freedom of speech and our right to divergent opinions is to establish a fair and level playing field by requiring that no entity can own more than one TV and radio station in any single market area in the United States.

Each of you has a solemn responsibility to protect the public. That is your first priority. Please do not fail us and yourselves by allowing major corporate interests to take over the virtual control of our airwaves.

Sincerely,

William Humphries

**CC:** Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein

**From:** WILLIAMF HUMPHRIES  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 7:54 AM  
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Sincerely,

William Humphries

**CC:** Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein

**From:** Ilona Forgeng  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 8:24 AM  
**Subject:** Do not remove the cap on station ownership

I hope you will reconsider and spend more time getting public input on the relaxation of the regulatory cap on station ownership. Democracy requires diversity of viewpoints, and as the concentration of radio stations in a few hands has shown, that concentration drives out diversity.

Ilona Forgeng  
6120 Shoreline Court  
PO Box 4  
Oriental, NC 28571

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From a Statement by Nancy Snow to FCC Public Forum on Media Consolidation  
University of Southern California Los Angeles,  
April 28, 2003 :

About a month from today (June 2, 2003), the FCC is expected to substantially relax the regulatory cap on how many TV stations a single company may own. Right now rules bar American broadcasters from owning TV stations reaching more than 35 percent of homes. They are likely to be raised to 45 percent coverage. Further, it is very likely that rules will be lifted that limit the ability of broadcasters to buy second TV stations in their markets or bar a city's newspaper and broadcast station from merging. -- Using M2, Opera's revolutionary e-mail client:  
<http://www.opera.com/m2/>

**From:** IGOOD1@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 9:24 AM  
**Subject:** Complaint of FCC Overturn those Rules.

Why are you the FCC allowing Telecommunications Company competitors to lease networks at BELOW cost. Is is not enough that you have destroyed the best communications company in the world (ATT), that you now have your sights on destroying what remains of the local telephone companies.

Why don't you put your job up for less than what you are making and allow people to buy your job for less than cost. I'd buy, and I would ensure EQUAL competition in telecommunications.

Ian Goodwin

**From:** Gene Zipperle  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 9:26 AM  
**Subject:** relaxation of ownership media rules

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing to urge you not to relax, any further, the current media ownership rule. In fact, I think you need to make them stricter to force more diversity among the stations. In my state of Kentucky, is not unusual to listen to a Clear Channel Station and have commercials run for 15 minutes straight. There are virtually no local DJ's anymore, and the playlist is the worst. Even though the sound track for "O brother where art thou" was at the top of the local charts for more than two years, I do not remember a single song from this soundtrack, being played on the local country station.

I know this attitude flies in the face of your what's good for business is good for the country mentality, but the United States is not a big corporation. It is a democracy that relies on the free flow of diverse ideas and attitudes that are often first embodied in the music of its citizens. This country will be dead if our ideals are set by the likes of Britney Spears or the Back Steet Boys.

Thanks Gene Zipperle

**From:** Fowler, Steve  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 9:30 AM  
**Subject:** fcc public comment

Sir,

Further de-regulation of radio station ownership only benefits the owner's of the station. Local news is short and repetition of songs is a typical example of what the public is now getting. Free enterprise is great but aren't we close enough to a monopoly ?

Sincerely,

Steve Fowler  
Citizen

\*\*\*\*\*  
Visit us at <http://www.plporter.com/> for latest leadtimes and delivery performance.  
\*\*\*\*\*

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**From:** Georgia Dunn  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 9:33 AM  
**Subject:** deregulation of radio stations

I am adamantly opposed to eliminating the rules regarding the number of radio stations that a company can own. The Cincinnati and Dayton areas are two great examples of what happens when one company owns almost all of the stations. Clear Channel controls the airwaves of talk radio and their editorial stance is obvious and significant. When the public hears no other voice, then the opportunity for propaganda to be taken as fact becomes too great. WLW, for example, has nothing but conservative, almost ultra-conservative talk radio hosts who will say anything to get listeners agitated. It is not responsible and, I believe, has only exacerbated the race relations difficulties in Cincinnati. Before Clear Channel owned so many stations, we had a wider variety of music choices as well as talk radio choices.

If anything, we need to decrease the number of stations that can be owned, not increase them.

Georgia Dunn

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**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
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If anything, we need to decrease the number of stations that can be owned, not increase them.

Georgia Dunn

**From:** Syndi Allgood  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 9:55 AM  
**Subject:** Congress demand FCC protect public media access

Dear Commissioner Powell:

Numerous reports agree that the Federal Communications is planning to loosen longstanding rules governing control of the media that bring news and views to the American public. This will inevitably lead to monopoly, by a few large corporate giants, of TV stations, newspapers, and broadcast networks.

I urge you, Commissioner Powell, to halt immediately any implementation of these these FCC plans that threaten public access to diverse views and information.

Sincerely,

Syndi Allgood  
503 Sterling Ridge DR  
Augusta, GA 30909

**From:** Marc Daniel  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 9:55 AM  
**Subject:** FCC promote media diversity

Dear Commissioner Powell:

Numerous reports agree that the Federal Communications is planning to loosen longstanding rules governing control of the media that bring news and views to the American public. This will inevitably lead to monopoly, by a few large corporate giants, of TV stations, newspapers, and broadcast networks.

I urge you, Commissioner Powell, to halt immediately any implementation of these these FCC plans that threaten public access to diverse views and information.

Sincerely,

Marc Daniel

**From:** RYNNEAL@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 12:14 PM  
**Subject:** Regulations

Dear Chairman Powell:

We are writing to you concerning the FCC's proposal to further deregulate ownership limits of media corporations. Partial deregulation in 1996 was bad enough. We do NOT need more deregulation.

We are very concerned that further deregulation will lead to a monolithic society and increase the lack of diversity of information coming to us over the airwaves.

With respect to news, the media have a public service obligation to bring us a diverse and multifaceted view of what happens throughout the world. What we have experienced since 1996 is LESS diversity of reporting and more sensationalism.

With respect to other aspects of media, we are seeing less local programming and more canned programming. The creativity is fast disappearing and being replaced with taped programs.

With 5 companies controlling 90% of the TV channels, the public is NOT being served with diversity.

We feel that the FCC should encourage diversity and a variety of smaller owned stations. We need MORE regulation, NOT less.

We urge that you bring the FCC proposals to full public view and seek public input. Everyone in the US has a right to know what is happening on the subject of media consolidation or not.

We appreciate your prompt action to initiate public input to comment on FCC proposals.

Sincerely, Kathryn Hiestand and Neal Miller

**From:** Ed Young  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 12:27 PM  
**Subject:** Regulation of media, radio mergers

FCC Chairman,

Promotion of any policy that promotes further mergers of the media, especially radio, is anti-democracy. The argument that mergers promote competition is obviously spurious, and really an oxymoron, since mergers eliminate competition. Anti-trust laws have been so eroded in all areas of American business to such an extent that we are now basically a Feudal State and democracy and free enterprise, as they were meant to be, are disappearing because of it. At this time in our history we need diversity of expression by individuals and on the regional and local levels as well as the national level. We need access to international media at these same levels and with the same diversity as well. Please do not reduce our media outlets to only those few voices of the powerful, monolithic media corporations.

Thank you,

Ed Young

Ed Young

[dredyoung@earthlink.net](mailto:dredyoung@earthlink.net)

<http://dredyoung.com/default.htm>

[nsi@TheNaturalSystemsInstitute.org](mailto:nsi@TheNaturalSystemsInstitute.org)

<http://TheNaturalSystemsInstitute.org/default.htm>

**From:** Vern  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 12:41 PM  
**Subject:** <No Subject>

**\*\* For Your Eyes Only \*\***

Dear Sirs/Madams:

For two years I have not been able to watch (stomach) any of the network news stations, because of their monolithic, narrow and one-sided coverage of important news issues. Lately, I have also stopped watching PBS, mostly for the same reason.

The further relaxation of ownership rules championed by Powell, Abernathy and Morton will only worsen this situation.

It is pathetic that most of the world knows more about what is going on in our country than our own citizens.

Please do what you can to stop, and reverse this control of our media by major corporations. These are public airways. Please return them to the public!

Very truly yours,

Vern Eveland, Ph.D.  
eveland@csulb.edu

**From:** h goldberg  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 1:19 PM  
**Subject:** <No Subject>

I emphatically, as a US citizen and a member of this democracy, do not support and am opposed to the FCC revising decades-old media ownership rules, including a limit on a company owning television stations that reach more than 35 percent of the national television audience as well a ban on a company from owning a newspaper and either a radio or television station in a market. I am also opposed to the FCC relaxing limits on owning multiple radio and television stations in a market and facilitating yet another monopoly enabling the four major television networks to merge. Please take your time in resolving these measures, and do not rush to the June 2nd meeting with an conclusive decision that this is going to work for our country. We grow through diversity of thought and action. We did away with Monopolies for a reason. Please do not homogenize our culture by filtering it down to the thoughts of less than six companies.

Thank You,

Hilary Goldberg  
Creative Director  
Power Up

310 271 4708  
8899 Beverly Blvd. Suite 501  
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Thank you

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**From:** Eugene Beckes  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 1:30 PM  
**Subject:** deregulation of airwaves

Dear Michael K. Powell,

I am writing because of concern about the possible further deregulation of the nation's media airwaves. I don't think that's a good idea. I believe that diversity in our ideas and people is the greatest strength the U.S. possesses. The big corporations who already own much of the nation's airwaves are primarily interested in money, not quality of information or what is necessarily good for the people.

Please do not help in the further erosion of our diversity of thought and ideas. Please don't deregulate or allow deregulation re the nation's airwaves.

Thanks for listening.  
Sincerely,  
Eugene Beckes

starkraven@blackfoot.net  
Eugene Beckes  
4181 Mission Crk. Rd.  
St. Ignatius, MT. 59865  
(406) 745-3001

**From:** Tara Pinder  
**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 2:37 PM  
**Subject:** Re: FCC Deregulation Proposal

I have just become aware of the FCC's pending vote on further deregulation of the media.

I can only think this is a sad thing for our country.

When I was in school I was taught that the airwaves were for the people and the FCC had the responsibility of regulating them.

The media is so monopolized by corporate and commercial business that I simply cannot believe the FCC would consider further deregulation.

I sincerely hope the commissioners of the FCC will consider the people of the United States and the airwaves that we thought belonged to us.

Please keep them open to all and not owned and programmed only by the corporations.

We all lose with more deregulation.

With deregulation we lose our artists, our culture, our creativity, our independence.

Most sincerely,

Tara Pinder  
Roseville CA  
916-434-7508

**From:** Zeb Norris  
**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 2:42 PM  
**Subject:** dereg

Dear Commissioner Abernathy,

As a 27 year veteran of the radio broadcasting business I would like to share my thoughts and experience as they relate to the issue of further deregulation of this industry.

In 1996 when the first round of "dereg" went through some thought that it would improve the world of broadcasting and increase the news and entertainment options available to broadcast consumers. This has not been the case. In radio, formats are more narrowly defined with less local influence and flavor than ever before. And radio has pretty much ceased actually addressing the public service needs of the local communities that they supposedly are licensed to serve. There used to be requirements for stations to run news, public service announcements, and public affairs programming. There used to be a requirement that stations ascertain the needs and issues in their local communities. There used to be a "fairness doctrine" that insured equal representation of differing viewpoints. These requirements have all been eliminated. As a result, local news, public service, and public affairs programming has been seriously curtailed. Station operators have little or no idea of the needs of their local communities. And so called "News/Talk" radio is dominated by extreme right-wingers. This does NOT serve the public interest. And serving the public interest is very important, because broadcast companies do NOT own the airwaves. They are the property of WE THE PEOPLE. The FCC licenses corporations to use OUR airwaves. It is only reasonable that these companies be required to serve the public interest in exchange for the potentially very profitable use of the public airwaves.

Broadcast companies may complain that they are not making very much money. But a closer look at the finances of the broadcast industry shows that current owners paid very very high prices (in terms of price/earnings ratios) for broadcast outlets after the 1996 dereg. If they now find that it is hard to service their debt and turn a profit that is, to put it bluntly, nobody's fault but theirs. Thus far many companies have cut overhead by slashing their payrolls (particularly in the news, public service, and programming departments) and relying on automation. This means that stations are ill equipped to serve the most basic and urgent needs of their local communities, such as issuing alerts in the event of emergencies. It has also resulted in a net loss of thousands of decent paying jobs just so broadcast companies can service the debt on stations they paid too much for to begin with.

Further deregulation will inevitably lead to even more inflated prices for broadcast stations. It will inevitably lead to the loss of more jobs. It will inevitably lead to fewer options for listeners. It will inevitably lead to fewer voices being heard, fewer opinions being presented, and the continued erosion of the important role as a check on the government that newspapers, radio stations, and television stations have traditionally held. Please please please oppose further deregulation... and consider returning requirements that broadcast entities serve the public interest as a condition of holding a federal broadcast license.

Zeb Norris  
Recording Engineer & Voice talent  
Lucky Dog Audio  
(805) 455-5680

**From:** Emmeric  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 2:48 PM  
**Subject:** VOTE NO

Chairman Michael K. Powell: [mpowell@fcc.gov](mailto:mpowell@fcc.gov)  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy: [kabernat@fcc.gov](mailto:kabernat@fcc.gov)  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps: [mcopps@fcc.gov](mailto:mcopps@fcc.gov)  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin: [kjmweb@fcc.gov](mailto:kjmweb@fcc.gov)  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein: [jadelste@fcc.gov](mailto:jadelste@fcc.gov)

I heard that there is going to be a vote lifting the cap on media monopolies to 45%, this is outrageous! As if things are not bad enough already! Please vote "NO" on this measure.

thank you!

sincerely,

emmeric james konrad

[emmeric@emmeric.net](mailto:emmeric@emmeric.net)

3615 Griffin ave. Los Angeles Ca., 90031

--

"the painter has to look into his own trousers and paint their economy on the canvas."

Georg Baselitz

emmeric james konrad

[emmeric@emmeric.net](mailto:emmeric@emmeric.net)

213.926.1964

<http://www.emmeric.com>

**CC:** Giulia Longo

**From:** Mike Pandzik  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 3:33 PM  
**Subject:** INCREASING THE MEDIA CONCENTRATION CAP

Please forward this attachment to Chairman Powell. Thank you.

Michael L. Pandzik  
President & CEO

NATIONAL CABLE TELEVISION COOPERATIVE, INC.  
11200 Corporate Avenue  
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

(w) 913 / 599-5900  
(f) 913 / 599-5921

<<Ltr - Chmn Powell.doc>>

N.B.: Founded in 1984, the NCTC is the U.S. cable industry's national wholesale purchasing organization. Through the Cooperative, our members participate in group-purchasing programs and master contracts to obtain volume discounts on cable programming networks as well as the hardware, equipment and services our members need to operate their businesses. Our 1,100 member companies provide cable television service to over 14 million households, served by nearly 7,000 cable systems in all 50 of the United States and every U.S. Territory.

**CC:** Allan Block [E-mail], Ben Hooks Jr. [E-mail], Charles "Chuck" Berky [E-mail], David D. Kinley [E-mail], Douglas B. Fuller [E-mail], Jeff Abbas [E-mail], Jim Faircloth [E-mail], Kirby Campbell [E-mail], LeaAnn Quist [E-mail], Linda C. Stuchell [E-mail], Peter C. Smith [E-mail], Robert [Bob] Gessner [E-mail], Steve Willrett [E-mail], Tom Gleason Jr. [E-mail], Tyrone Garrett [E-mail]

**From:** Andrew Sahalie  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 4:06 PM  
**Subject:** relaxing the regulatory cap on how many TV stations a single company may own

I am concerned about the move to relax the regulatory cap on how many TV stations a single company may own.

The airwaves do not belong to the broadcasters. They do not belong to the advertisers. The owners of the broadcast airwaves, by law, are the people of the United States.

I feel that the media should not be used for the spread of tilted propaganda as it is now by the large, corporate ownership of airways by companies with political motivations.

Andrew Sahalie

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**From:** Andrew Sahalie  
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Andrew Sahalie

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**From:** Manuel G. Correia  
**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 4:22 PM  
**Subject:** Please Allow For Public Input Before Deregulation

Dear Commissioner Abernathy,

I am very alarmed about the current plans to change the cap on Radio station ownership.

Recent history and experience have left me and my family with less and less diversity and factual information due to very few firms owning most accessible radio and television stations. We have moved from Oklahoma to Indiana, and now to California - to no avail. The radio stations as well as TV sound and look alike, as do the allegedly informative news broadcasts.

I do not expect this to change with more deregulation, rather it will get worse.

I believe you to be entrusted to safeguard the public domain, not to sell it off to a powerful bidder.

Please take care in slowing down the process of deregulation, safeguard the public information domain against monopoly, and allow for adequate and unbiased public input as well as react accordingly to the public voice.

I see no urgent need to rush into deregulation now, other than to satisfy a political need to make changes before elections change the appointed persons entrusted with the public domain.

With great respect,

Manuel Correia

Los Angeles, California

**From:** Anne Holder  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 4:43 PM  
**Subject:** "Deregulation" of media

Dear FCC Chair Commissioner Michael Powell,

As a community college professor and personal news junkie, I am asking you to please halt any further "deregulation" of the media. The narrowness of coverage is such that most young people do not pay attention to news of any kind, and while some factions may find that disinterest beneficial, it is creating havoc with their minds and their ability to learn. While most are fairly bitter about Clear Channel, they have no idea what a constricted view of other information they receive these days.

The only thing that helped me survive the pathetic mainstream coverage of the "war" on Iraq was access to alternative sources of news, as well as some of the most brilliant analyses I've ever read--from both conservative and liberal correspondents. While for me, it was a time of genuine learning and thought, for my students on this border--most too poor to afford computers for Internet access (though some had read the Mexican newspapers)--the news was "boring" and not unlike the pep rallies they'd just left in high school. Unfortunately my subject matter didn't allow me to communicate most of what I had learned. What a sad statement of American "freedoms."

I urge you to continue the democratic tradition of broadcasting those views that conform with administrative policy as well as those that challenge it.

Thank you so much for your attention.

Anne Holder  
504 Marthmont  
El Paso TX 79912  
afhholder@yahoo.com

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**From:** Anne Holder  
**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 30, 2003 4:47 PM  
**Subject:** Consolidation of

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen q. Abernathy,

As a community college professor and personal news junkie, I am asking you to please halt any further "deregulation" of the media. The narrowness of coverage is such that most young people do not pay attention to news of any kind, and while some factions may find that disinterest beneficial, it is creating havoc with their minds and their ability to learn. While most are fairly bitter about Clear Channel, they have no idea what a constricted view of other information they receive these days.

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Anne Holder  
504 Marthmont  
El Paso TX 79912  
afhholder@yahoo.com

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