

02-277

**From:** Ferrance@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** 4/11/03 7:34AM  
**Subject:** Fairness doctrine

Please reinstate the fairness doctrine to ensure some balance in the media. Thank you. Francis J. Ferrance, Ph.D., J.D.

**From:** Dihoffmn@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** 4/11/03 2:53PM  
**Subject:** letter to FCC Board

4/11/03

Dear FCC Board Member:

I am writing to express my opposition to further deregulation of radio and TV ownership.

I fail to see how deregulation can accomplish the strategic goals of the FCC as reported on the FCC web site. I believe success in accomplishing these goals requires the FCC to recommit the Commission to increasing the diversity of ownership to truly ensure competition of ideas and expression. Media that is open to diversity of ideas is essential for a healthy, vigorous democracy. Diversity requires expanding ownership of media outlets not concentration of ownership in the hands of fewer and fewer entities

I understand The FCC is considering relaxing the rules that limit how much of the national television audience a single entity can reach. Specifically, by reviewing proposals that would remove rules that prevent a single company from owning more than one of the top four television stations in a given market. I also understand The FCC is considering removing controls on common ownership of television and radio stations or newspapers and broadcast stations in a market, specifically by allowing mergers among the major existing networks.

When I went on the FCC web site [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov) I examined the very interesting and revealing study on cable system availability and ownership for 10 selected radio markets in 1960, 1980 and 2000. I am sure you are familiar with the study.

The figures in the study showed that in 1980 there were 3.97 entities per owner. In 2000 there were 9.61 entities per owner. The study also showed the growth of cable households in the communities. The total cable households grew from 1,328,461 in 1980 to 4,421,380 in 2000. Can you imagine what those numbers are today! Fewer and fewer people are already influencing larger and larger audiences by virtue of the content of their programming and advertising.

Concentration of ownership is growing without further deregulation!

We can show the empirical evidence required by the District Court by pointing to the absence of diverse media in the former Soviet Union and the current lack of diverse media perspectives in many Middle Eastern, Asian, African and South American countries today and the problem that poses in presenting different perspectives of current events in these countries. The rules are necessary to ensure we do not go in the same direction as those countries.

In 1945 the Supreme Court ruled that "the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the people." The Fairness Doctrine that was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1969 stated that "airwaves are a "public trust" and fairness requires that

the airwaves must accurately reflected differences of opinion." This further supports the 1945 decision.

The free competition of ideas is crucial to our future growth and survival. By allowing greater concentration of ownership, the FCC will greatly reduce the likelihood that media will reflect a true plurality of opinions, invite honest debate, encourage analytical thinking or discuss ideas that are unpopular with the government. Access to information and opposing viewpoints is vital if we hope to be able to critically evaluate information and make reasoned responsible decisions that affect our lives and future.

Our forefathers were so concerned about ensuring freedom of speech and the press they made it a part of the first amendment to the Constitution. I am counting on you to protect this essential characteristic of Democracy and support movement toward a freer and more diverse media in America. Deregulation, which allows further concentration of media in the hands of fewer entities is a dagger in the heart of our Democracy.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Hoffman

**From:** Phil Fox  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** 4/11/03 4:17PM  
**Subject:** TV stations

>Dear Commissioner Powell

Please let this letter serve as my formal complaint and objection to any pending FCC rulings which may lift restriction's on mergers between TV broadcast networks and the number of local TV or radio stations owned by one company. Such deregulation threatens to further stifle the diversity of programming for consumers, advertisers and producers. One of the main charges of the FCC is to promote diversity, which doesn't just refer to people of color, it refers to many different types of programming. We applaud you for attempting to draw attention to this problem. I would like to go on record as being opposed to increased or further media deregulation and wish for you to act on my behalf and STOP further media deregulation.

Respectfully yours,

Phil Fox  
phil1fox@hotmail.com

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**From:** Phil Fox  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** 4/11/03 4:35PM  
**Subject:** TV stations bill

Dear Chairman Powell,

mpowell@fcc.gov

Please let this letter serve as my formal complaint and objection to any pending FCC rulings which may lift restriction's on mergers between TV broadcast networks and the number of local TV or radio stations owned by one company. Such deregulation threatens to further stifle the diversity of programming for consumers, advertisers and producers. One of the main charges of the FCC is to promote diversity, which doesn't just refer to people of color, it refers to many different types of programming. We applaud you Chairman Powell for attempting to draw attention to this problem. I would like to go on record as being opposed to increased or further media deregulation and wish for you to act on my behalf and STOP further media deregulation.

Respectfully yours,

Phil Fox

phil1fox@hotmail.com

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