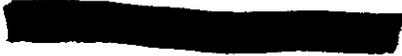


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Times-Courier

===== YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE PROGRESS OF GILMER COUNTY =====

Serving Gilmer Since 1875

February 12, 2002

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

Attn: Marglie Sales, Secretary
MMDocket 96-197

Gentlemen:

We, as owners of an old established weekly newspaper since 1967, are concerned about the possibility of a change in the current cross-ownership prohibition of broadcast and print media.

In our growing county of 25,000 we have a good radio station, the Times-Courier and a new TV cable station. The latter is owned by the telephone company which has amassed millions in the last 20 years. All three are working together and cover all aspects of the community. But, all are separately owned. We keep one another on their toes, so to speak.

However, with a cross-ownership of either media, we feel a monopoly of either would be to the detriment of our county. This is the same situation, we are sure, of other areas. In this age of big corporations taking over, we feel it is time for the FCC to take steps to prevent such. Community journalism is best served when there is competition.

We realize that in some large cities there may be cross-ownership of the media, but in small towns greedy ownership of all the media would hamper the free enterprise system.

We respectfully request that you do nothing to undermine the diversity which makes broadcast media and newspapers watchdogs, not only of the government, but of each other.

Sincerely,


Annetta Bunch

George N. Bunch

Publishers and owners since 1967 of the 7,300 circulation newspaper

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