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May 30, 2003

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554
FAX (202) 418-0710

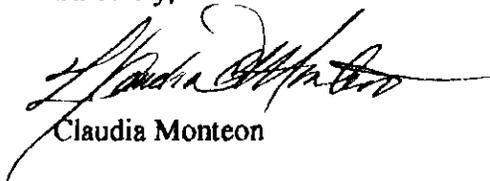
Chairman Powell,

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Our democracy depends upon a diverse and robust media that ensures the free flow of information from a wide array of sources and viewpoints. But recent years have been characterized by rapid consolidation in the media industry, a trend that has left us with fewer corporations controlling a larger percentage of the information upon which we base important political and personal decisions.

Please do not change the media ownership rules.

Sincerely,



Claudia Monteon

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(Date) 5/31/03

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Please do not change the media ownership rules.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Becker

5/31/03

ATT: CHAIRMAN MICHAEL POWELL

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary **Distribution Center**

Date Saturday, May 31, 2003

Number of pages including cover sheet. 1

To
Michael K Powell, chairman of FCC

From:
Gerald Orcholski

Jim Phillips

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Pasadena Ca 91104

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REMARKS:

Deregulation of the media is a problem because it will allow a few corporations the power to control what news the public receives. We live in a democracy and you need to allow the public voice in as to such monumental changes. Trying to hold votes and changes in secret just won't work. It is not too late to allow public debate.

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Federal Communications Commission
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RE: Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership regulations

To whom it may concern

I would like to request those who will be deciding this country's media's ownership rights to think seriously about the purpose and goals in this matter. Do we want to have diverse news, the free flow of information, competition and broad-ranging international, national and local news?

I strongly believe that the FCC should not weaken any of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry. There is already too much of the same news and not enough diversity.

Because only a few companies already own most of the airwaves and press, Americans have to actually search for independent stations and papers to see other news, other slants, other opinions, other subjects. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited because they are coming from the same source.

If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge even more, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised. It already has been. In a democratic society, all issues and sides of the issues should be presented and discussed. Allowing so few companies to control our news will put much more economic and social power into only a few hands. With fewer opinions and news stories being aired or printed, fewer viewpoints and international views will surface and we will suffer because we just never got the information. The deregulation will create a climate that will endanger our freedom of speech because fewer sides will be offered and tolerated.

Diversity of opinions is critical to the free flow of information. A democratic society needs to avoid having the majority of the news come from the same source, because it doesn't have opposition or competition. Relaxing the current rules could be dangerous to us as a nation, but it would also be a disservice to all of us as individuals. 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, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit more 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 viewpoints of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest. I am concerned that the large parent companies might have interests or own other companies which occasionally might cause a conflict of interest when a news story occurs. News should be unbiased and factual, but it is rarely simply that. Having many different companies reporting different things is better than having a few companies repeating the same thing. I would hope the FCC remembers that it is ultimately working for the people of this country, not big business.

Please do not relax the rules of limitations on media ownership.

Tern Barr-Mark

Tern Barr-Marks
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Sterling VA 20165