

W.P.G./Dragoti Ltd., 7758 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048, 814-1570

RECEIVED & INSPECTED  
MAY 30 2003  
FCC - MAILROOM

TO MICHEAL POWELL,

NO MORE DEREGULATION OF  
THE FCC CONCERNING  
OWNERSHIP RULES. WE DON'T  
NEED A MONOPOLY

Confirmed  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center

THANK YOU,

HERBERT SHOR

Herbert Shor

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Curtiss Ann

To: Powell

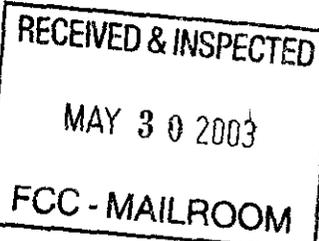
Date: 5/23/2003 10:29:31 PM

Subject: increasing number of outlets that media giants may own

Confirmed

JUN 03 2003

Distribution Center



Dear Commissioner Powell and other Commissioners of the FCC,

We feel that to allow fewer and more powerful media to own more outlets would further erode the opportunity for local news and a wider voice of the people to be heard. Please heed Commissioner Cox and the members of Congress who are asking for a delay on the scheduled June 2, 2003 vote until such time as there can be public hearings that will explore the consequences of this vote.

Sincerely,

Bill and Ann Curtiss

Handwritten signatures of Bill and Ann Curtiss in cursive script, positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

Ann, Bill & Jim Curtiss

Circleville, Ohio, USA

[acurtiss@mindspring.com](mailto:acurtiss@mindspring.com)

Confirmed

JUN 03 2003

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

MAY 30 2003

FCC-MAILROOM

The Honorable  
Kathleen Q. Abernethy, Commissioner  
Distribution Center

I strongly urge you not to repeal

the broadcast rules that protect  
American Citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would  
pave the way for giant media conglomerates  
to gain near <sup>total</sup> control of radio, television news  
and information in communities across our  
nation.

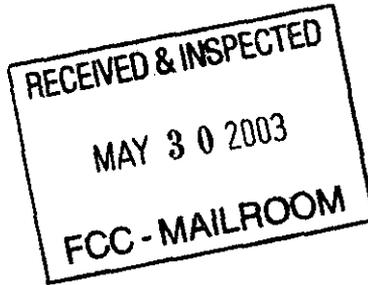
The American people deserve to hear  
more than one viewpoint on important issues.

For the sake of our democracy and our  
freedom I urge you to continue the  
broadcast ownership protections that  
for decades have helped to ensure a healthy  
political debate in our country.

Sincerely

Erma R. Lebek

2153 State Hwy 41  
Wilber, NE 68465-2596



## Green Party

Of Pima County

P.O. Box 6014

Tucson, AZ 85703

(520) 881-8022

www.pimagreens.org

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center

Dear Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy:

I am writing on behalf of the Green Party of Pima County to express my opposition to the procedure being utilized to relax the Federal Communication Commission regulations. It is appalling that we, the American public, cannot even know the nature of these changes prior to the vote in the FCC that will change these rules forever. As citizens of the United States, we the people are the common owners of the airwaves and therefore should have some say in how the government allocates the use of those airwaves. By closing the hearing process, you are closing off the overall democratic process as well.

The GPPC had a vested interest in the way the media conducts itself. Because of the structure of our political system, we already have little opportunity to express our opinion through the media. We have had media people tell us they weren't going to bother talking to us or reporting about us because we "had no money". If these regulations are relaxed to encourage mass media conglomeration we will have even less of a voice and our positions will be even less represented. I know of cases where even paid advertisements have been rejected by mainstream media simply because they do not express the mainstream position on issues.

Is this the way the country should be headed? Are we going to live in a country where only one opinion is presented by the media? The consolidation of the media proposed in the new FCC regulations certainly moves us towards that position.

At least allow us to see the regulation changes before they are formally voted on, and put off the change in regulations another 60 or 90 days so more of the American public can hear of these proposed changes and weigh in with their opinion. After all, we are by law the owners of the public airwaves.

Thank you for your attention.

Ann Samuelson  
Chair, Green Party Pima County

Cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein



## Green Party

Of Pima County

P.O. Box 6014

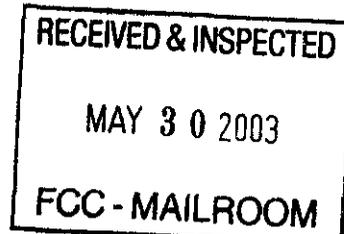
Tucson, AZ 85703

(520) 881-8022

www.pimagreens.org

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center



Chairman Michael K. Powell:

I am writing on behalf of the Green Party of Pima County to express opposition to the procedure being utilized to relax the Federal Communication Commission regulations. It is appalling that we, the American public, cannot even know the nature of these changes prior to the vote in the FCC that will change these rules forever. As citizens of the United States, we the people are the common owners of the airwaves and therefore should have some say in how the government allocates the use of those airwaves. By closing the hearing process, you are closing off the overall democratic process as well.

The GPPC had a vested interest in the way the media conducts itself. Because of the structure of our political system, we already have little opportunity to express our opinion through the media. We have had media people tell us they weren't going to bother talking to us or reporting about us because we "had no money". If these regulations are relaxed to encourage mass media conglomeration we will have even less of a voice and our positions will be even less represented. I know of cases where even paid advertisements have been rejected by mainstream media simply because they do not express the mainstream position on issues.

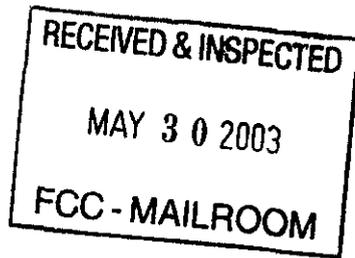
Is this the way the country should be headed? Are we going to live in a country where only one opinion is presented by the media? The consolidation of the media proposed in the new FCC regulations certainly moves us towards that position.

At least allow us to see the regulation changes before they are formally voted on, and put off the change in regulations another 60 or 90 days so more of the American public can hear of these proposed changes and weigh in with their opinion. After all, we are by law the owners of the public airwaves.

Thank you for your attention.

Ann Samuelson  
Chair, Green Party Pima County

Cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein



**Green Party**  
**Of Pima County**  
P.O. Box 6014  
Tucson, AZ 85703  
(520) 881-8022  
www.pimagreens.org

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Michael K. Powell:

I am writing on behalf of the Green Party of Pima County to express opposition to the procedure being utilized to relax the Federal Communication Commission regulations. It is appalling that we, the American public, cannot even know the nature of these changes prior to the vote in the FCC that will change these rules forever. As citizens of the United States, we the people are the common owners of the airwaves and therefore should have some say in how the government allocates the use of those airwaves. By closing the hearing process, you are closing off the overall democratic process as well.

The GPPC had a vested interest in the way the media conducts itself. Because of the structure of our political system, we already have little opportunity to express our opinion through the media. We have had media people tell us they weren't going to bother talking to us or reporting about us because we "had no money". If these regulations are relaxed to encourage mass media conglomeration we will have even less of a voice and our positions will be even less represented. I know of cases where even paid advertisements have been rejected by mainstream media simply because they do not express the mainstream position on issues.

Is this the way the country should be headed? Are we going to live in a country where only one opinion is presented by the media? The consolidation of the media proposed in the new FCC regulations certainly moves us towards that position.

At least allow us to see the regulation changes before they are formally voted on, and put off the change in regulations another 60 or 90 days so more of the American public can hear of these proposed changes and weigh in with their opinion. After all, we are by law the owners of the public airwaves.

Thank you for your attention.

Ann Samuelson  
Chair, Green Party Pima County

Cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

**Confirmed**  
**JUN 03 2003**  
**Distribution Center**



## Green Party

Of Pima County

P.O. Box 6014

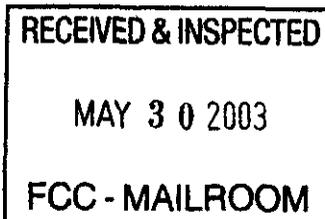
Tucson, AZ 85703

(520) 881-8022

www.pimagreens.org

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center



Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin:

I am writing on behalf of the Green Party of Pima County to express opposition to the procedure being utilized to relax the Federal Communication Commission regulations. It is appalling that we, the American public, cannot even know the nature of these changes prior to the vote in the FCC that will change these rules forever. As citizens of the United States, we the people are the common owners of the airwaves and therefore should have some say in how the government allocates the use of those airwaves. By closing the hearing process, you are closing off the overall democratic process as well.

The GPPC had a vested interest in the way the media conducts itself. Because of the structure of our political system, we already have little opportunity to express our opinion through the media. We have had media people tell us they weren't going to bother talking to us or reporting about us because we "had no money". If these regulations are relaxed to encourage mass media conglomeration we will have even less of a voice and our positions will be even less represented. I know of cases where even paid advertisements have been rejected by mainstream media simply because they do not express the mainstream position on issues.

Is this the way the country should be headed? Are we going to live in a country where only one opinion is presented by the media? The consolidation of the media proposed in the new FCC regulations certainly moves us towards that position.

At least allow us to see the regulation changes before they are formally voted on, and put off the change in regulations another 60 or 90 days so more of the American public can hear of these proposed changes and weigh in with their opinion. After all, we are by law the owners of the public airwaves.

Thank you for your attention.

Ann Samuelson  
Chair, Green Party Pima County



526 N. Irving Blvd • Los Angeles, California 90004 • 323.465.3575 • secondson1@earthlink.net

May 21, 2003

Mr. Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center

RECEIVED & INSPECTED  
MAY 30 2003  
FCC - MAILROOM

Dear Chairman Powell:

I have been following very closely the proposed changes in media ownership rules.

Kindly read the attached article and explain to me how loosening the rules is in the public interest.

I firmly believe that your commission is poised to make an error that does not reflect the wishes of the public whom you are privileged to represent.

I also am convinced that changing the media ownership rules will benefit large corporations at the expense of that same public.

I strongly urge you and your fellow commissioners to refrain from changing these rules.

Sincerely,

Christopher Meindi

Encl.

cc: Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Michael J. Copps  
Kevin J. Martin  
Jonathan A. Adelstein

## TELEVISION

HOWARD ROSENBERG

# In media, Goliath edging out David

I watch KTLA's 10 p.m. news when I can. Not because it's a good newscast. It isn't, unless you think gorging on crime polishes your intellect. And not because I look forward to Hal Fishman's stuffed-shirt commentaries or Mindy Burbano's giddy entertainment dish. I don't, unless dying for a laugh.

No, I watch KTLA to find out what my favorite paper, the Los Angeles Times, is writing about the next day. Listen:

"The Times reports . . ."

"A congressional official told The Times . . ."

"That's the very latest from the news desk here at the Los Angeles Times."

From his lips to your cars. On the screen is Ron Olsen, a KTLA veteran who is that rare specialist on a news staff of pop-in, pop-out generalists. His specialty — the culmination of his seasoning and expertise after many years in the business — is the front page of The Times. From his permanent, camera-ready position inside the paper's newsroom, he covers our coverage. It's a dirty job . . .

There's a positive effect. By capsulizing some of our lead stories for KTLA viewers, Olsen does supply snippets — albeit without context — that his station could not acquire on its own. It hasn't the talent or the inclination.

Mostly, though, he functions as an advertisement for this paper. As a Tribune stockholder, I'm thrilled. As a concerned media observer, I'm not.

Now, think about it. Like other stations in town, KTLA has no one permanently based in Sacramento, the state capital, where critical decisions about California are made and cry out for close scrutiny and smart analysis.

But it's got a guy at The Times. Because he doesn't have to hop a plane to get there? Yeah, maybe. But mostly because KTLA and The Times are both owned by my favorite media corporation, the beloved Tribune Co.

Just as Los Angeles stations

their newscasts. As in KCBS anchor Harold Greene crowing on KCAL about his own newscast: "Those stories and more just

minutes away on CBS2 news." Isn't deregulation great? And don't we need more of it?

I mention this now because we may be at a critical crossroads on this issue. Led by its chairman, Michael K. Powell, the Federal Communications Commission is expected to vote June 2 to loosen rules governing media cross-ownership.

Bad idea. Terrible idea.

Tribune and bigger media companies are cheering, but many watchdog and consumer groups are opposed, arguing correctly that most of the proposed revisions would ultimately harm the public by limiting public discourse.

The vote is expected to be 3 to 2 in favor of a rollback, on grounds that these regulations, imposed in an earlier, quainter communications era, ignore the wider spectrum of choices now available through cable and the Internet. Yet this is largely a phantom rambow, for these new technologies have increasingly come under the control of the same media giants who would benefit most from loosened regulations.

All right, you're yawning. It's dry stuff. You're as underwhelmed as when Fishman's commentaries remind you of Beethoven's Fifth played on a xylophone.

But this must be stopped.

Expected to fall is a rule barring a single company from owning TV stations that reach more than 35% of U.S. households. That would rise to 45%, meaning that giant networks would be able to scoop up more stations, and in doing so potentially limit local control of programming. That centralized iron fist should worry you whether you're liberal or conservative or someone in between.

Immediately benefiting would be Viacom (owner of CBS, MTV and UPN) and News Corp. (owner of Fox and its minions). Although mergers have left them above the 35% limit, they

owning The Times and KTLA because it, too, has an FCC waiver, as does News Corp. to own the New York Post) in all but the smallest of markets.

In addition, another reported proposal would allow a company to own more than one station in a market, as Viacom and News Corp. do here, and up to three in the nation's largest markets. That means, presumably, that Tribune would be able to own not only The Times and KTLA but two additional TV stations in Los Angeles, raising the prospect of Olsen, our man in the newsroom, speaking to L.A. from a trio of stations instead of just one.

If these proposals come through, as anticipated, a door will swing open to allow more unhealthy consolidation, and the L.A. duopolies cited above would be in stone, as would be an NBC triopoly under a waiver it has here to own KNBC and Spanish-language Telemundo and KWHY.

Meaning more media control in fewer hands. Meaning more cross-promotion. Meaning less diversity. Meaning fewer independent voices in news and entertainment. Meaning less competition and fewer options for information.

It's true that what we have now is often unreliable, a fact underlined by tag-along TV's generally feckless, ever-manipulated, go-with-the-flow, yassah-Mr. President coverage of the war in Iraq and its aftermath. Everyone would profit if the quality of today's journalism were higher.

Diverse media, however imperfect, are essential to us all, however.

If Powell and his allies hold sway on these proposed revisions, America will find itself walking a perilous high wire from which its democracy may someday topple. This is not hysteria, it's what may happen.

Can we in the media be counted on to act responsibly with so many masters to serve?

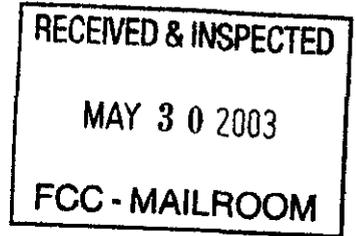
Another daily I subscribe to is the Ventura County Star, a paper with many good qualities. Curiously, though, it runs news stories and columns about cable's Home & Garden Television, in addition to giving special prominence to HGTV and Food Network programs in its TV highlights on a daily basis. If you're wondering why, one possibility is that HGTV and the Food Network are distributed by E.W. Scripps Co., the same company that publishes the Ventura County Star.

Meanwhile, be sure and catch the best of the Los Angeles Times on KTLA.

1380 Greenwich St., San Francisco, Ca 94109

May 24, 2003

Michael Powell & Commissioners  
FCC, 445 12TH St., Washington, DC 20554



Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

Confirmed

JUN 03 2003

Monopolies should be totally repugnant to a democracy. Your responsibility surely is to ensure a vibrant free market in the media. Allowing the integration vertically or horizontally of large media organizations or establishing rules which allow domination in any one community of a single news organization is wrong.

Distribution Center

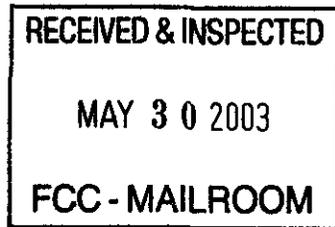
Anyone on your board who fails to uphold these strictures should resign and carry out his views as an individual not subject to FCC mandates. The FCC is no place for an ideologue with an agenda.

Sincerely,  
Susan M. Smith

# QUINN KEON

11144 N. JEROME ROAD • SAINT LOUIS, MICHIGAN • 48880 • (989) 681-5157  
[www.quinnkeon.com](http://www.quinnkeon.com) • [contact@quinnkeon.com](mailto:contact@quinnkeon.com)

May 22, 2003



The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Confirmed**  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center

Mr. Adelstein

As a musician I would like to express my concern about the proposed FCC rule change on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is a very difficult process for me to gain any relevant airplay for my music on local radio. However, I see this difficult task becoming an impossibility if the ownership of local stations changes hands into those of corporate giants. Trying to pursue my musical dreams continues to become more difficult due to online file sharing. It is difficult to sell music without radio airplay, and I do not see this opportunity being available if the big corporations take over small town radio stations.

Another concern that I have on the matter is that of one-sided stories in the media. I am concerned that *all* viewpoints will not be equally represented when controversial subjects are the topic. As a responsible owner of firearms, I am aware of the weighted media coverage toward the idea that firearms are problematic. It is my strong belief that this topic among others will continue to be portrayed in a light that is chosen by the media giants. The portrayal of controversial subjects by the media does affect the way many individuals form their viewpoints. Therefore, it is extremely important that you make sure "freedom of the press" rather than control of the press continues to exist.

Please consider my concerns when making your decisions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



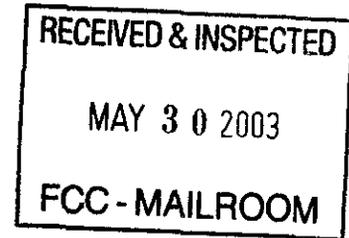
Quinn Keon

Date: May 15, 2003

To: Ms. Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission

From: Tim & Debbie Richards  
6217 W. 156<sup>th</sup> Street  
Overland Park, KS 66223

**Confirmed**  
JUN 03 2003  
**Distribution Center**



Subject: Against Easing Media Ownership Rules

I would like to express my concerns against the easing of restrictions on media ownership. This has the great potential for limiting and controlling information available to the general public. Indirectly, but very effectively, this can limit free speech and put the ability to manipulate public opinion in the hands of a few people.

Please do not ease the restrictions on media ownership. Local diversity must be maintained to support a free nation.

Thanks.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tim Richards".

Tim & Debbie Richards

Norma Karg  
31902 Paseo Alto Plano  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

May 17, 2003



**Confirmed**  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center

Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, 20554

Re: Make Your Voice Heard on Media Diversity Before It's Too Late!

Commissioner Abernathy:

I am writing to remind the members of the Federal Communications Commission that you are responsible for ensuring that the media "serve the public interest." I am concerned that if the FCC continues to relax regulations on media ownership, the victor will be big business--and the casualties will be the people of the U.S.

The free flow of information, the benefits of local competition and the power of a diverse marketplace will virtually disappear.

As a supporter of women's rights, I am concerned that the current media merger free-for-all threatens to rob us all of the independent voices, views and ideas that nourish a pluralistic, democratic society.

The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy democracy, and women cannot pursue equal rights, if we are uninformed on the issues. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that all voices are heard. It is your job to promote this.

Please remember U.S. consumers and citizens when you review the remaining regulations. These regulations must be kept in place, and strengthened, not weakened. The media giants already control far too much of our precious information resources.

Sincerely,

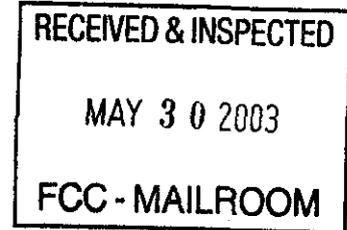
Norma Karg

Confirmed  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center

Norma Karg  
31902 Paseo Alto Plano  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

May 17, 2003

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, 20554



Re: Make Your Voice Heard on Media Diversity Before It's Too Late!

Commissioner Adelstein:

I am writing to remind the members of the Federal Communications Commission that you are responsible for ensuring that the media "serve the public interest." I am concerned that if the FCC continues to relax regulations on media ownership, the victor will be big business--and the casualties will be the people of the U.S.

The free flow of information, the benefits of local competition and the power of a diverse marketplace will virtually disappear.

As a supporter of women's rights, I am concerned that the current media merger free-for-all threatens to rob us all of the independent voices, views and ideas that nourish a pluralistic, democratic society.

The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy democracy, and women cannot pursue equal rights, if we are uninformed on the issues. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that all voices are heard. It is your job to promote this.

Please remember U.S. consumers and citizens when you review the remaining regulations. These regulations must be kept in place, and strengthened, not weakened. The media giants already control far too much of our precious information resources.

Sincerely,

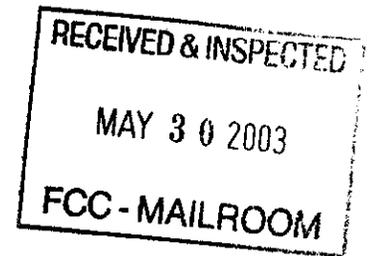
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norma Karg".

Norma Karg

May 23, 2003

Mr. Kevin Martin  
FCC  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

**Confirmed**  
JUN 03 2003  
**Distribution Center**



Dear Mr. Martin,

I am writing to urge you to vote against the up-coming bill which would lift the 35% exclusive ownership ban of all media in a given area. At least, could you delay the vote until the public has more time to react and send the Commission more feedback.

The fairly low-quality TV and radio news broadcasts are already biased enough. I am afraid that if there is less competition than there is now for objective reporting, our ears will be bombarded with even more political propaganda than we presently endure.

Thanks for reading this and I'll be looking for the outcome on June 2.

Sincerely,

Lucy Dipboye

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lucy Dipboye".

Lucy Dipboye  
1067 River Drive  
Calabash, NC 28467

RECEIVED & INSPECTED  
MAY 30 2003  
FCC - MAILROOM

**Evan M. Dudik and Associates, Inc.**  
9304 NE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ct.  
Vancouver, WA 98662-1850

Tel: 360-604-1818 Fax: 360-604-1914 [edudik@evandudik.com](mailto:edudik@evandudik.com) [www.emd-assoc.com](http://www.emd-assoc.com)

May 23, 2003

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Confirmed**

JUN 03 2003

Dear Commissioner Martin:

**Distribution Center**

The purpose of this letter is to urge you vote against the proposed broadcast ownership rules now being contemplated by the FCC.

As a consultant to senior management in corporate America, I know how important it is for there to be strong, easy direct access to a diversity of well-represented opinion so that people can make the best possible choices.

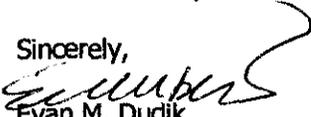
America is facing grave challenges at home and abroad. Now is not the time to reduce the capacity of our distribution channels of information. When I see the superficial and often erroneous pablum that passes for news, I am appalled at the idea that an oligopoly of corporations would be able to control the ideas of the vast majority of Americans.

Ideas have bandwidth requirements. Please do not allow a few corporations to control the crucial valves that regulate the flow of ideas to Americans.

The Internet cannot compete in ease of access, emotional appeal and broad reach to television and radio. Therefore, to say that this method of communication is a true competitor in how most people get their news is a travesty of logic.

Please keep our desperately needed "marketplace of ideas" as open and as competitive as possible. The airwaves are a finite, limited resource. I urge you to vote against any relaxation of these ownership rules.

Sincerely,

  
Evan M. Dudik



526 N. Irving Blvd • Los Angeles, California 90004 • 323.465.3575 • secondson1@earthlink.net

May 21, 2003

Mr. Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed  
JUN 03 2003  
Distribution Center

RECEIVED & INSPECTED  
MAY 30 2003  
FCC - MAILROOM

Dear Chairman Powell:

I have been following very closely the proposed changes in media ownership rules.

Kindly read the attached article and explain to me how loosening the rules is in the public interest.

I firmly believe that your commission is poised to make an error that does not reflect the wishes of the public whom you are privileged to represent.

I also am convinced that changing the media ownership rules will benefit large corporations at the expense of that same public.

I strongly urge you and your fellow commissioners to refrain from changing these rules.

Sincerely,

Christopher Meindl

Encl.

cc: ~~Kathleen Q. Abernathy~~  
Michael J. Copps  
Kevin J. Martin  
Jonathan A. Adelstein

## TELEVISION

HOWARD ROSENBERG

# In media, Goliath edging out David

I watch KTLA's 10 p.m. news when I can.

Not because it's a good newscast. It isn't, unless you think gorging on crime polishes your intellect. And not because I look forward to Hal Fishman's stuffed-shirt commentaries or Mindy Burbano's giddy entertainment dish. I don't, unless dying for a laugh.

No, I watch KTLA to find out what my favorite paper, the Los Angeles Times, is writing about the next day. Listen:

"The Times reports . . ."

"A congressional official told The Times . . ."

"That's the very latest from the news desk here at the Los Angeles Times."

From his lips to your ears. On the screen is Ron Olsen, a KTLA veteran who is that rare specialist on a news staff of pop-in, pop-out generalists. His specialty — the culmination of his seasoning and expertise after many years in the business — is the front page of The Times. From his permanent, camera-ready position inside the paper's newsroom, he covers our coverage. It's a dirty job . . .

There's a positive effect. By capsulizing some of our lead stories for KTLA viewers, Olsen does supply snippets — albeit without context — that his station could not acquire on its own. It hasn't the talent or the inclination.

Mostly, though, he functions as an advertisement for this paper. As a Tribune stockholder, I'm thrilled. As a concerned media observer, I'm not.

Now, think about it. Like other stations in town, KTLA has no one permanently based in Sacramento, the state capital, where critical decisions about California are made and cry out for close scrutiny and smart analysis.

But it's got a guy at The Times. Because he doesn't have to hop a plane to get there? Yeah, maybe. But mostly because KTLA and The Times are both owned by my favorite media corporation, the beloved Tribune Co.

Just as Los Angeles stations

their newscasts. As in KCBS anchor Harold Greene crowing on KCAL about his own newscast: "Those stories and more just minutes away on CBS2 news."

Isn't deregulation great? And don't we need more of it?

I mention this now because we may be at a critical crossroads on this issue. Led by its chairman, Michael K. Powell, the Federal Communications Commission is expected to vote June 2 to loosen rules governing media cross-ownership.

Bad idea. Terrible idea.

Tribune and bigger media companies are cheering, but many watchdog and consumer groups are opposed, arguing correctly that most of the proposed revisions would ultimately harm the public by limiting public discourse.

The vote is expected to be 3 to 2 in favor of a rollback, on grounds that these regulations, imposed in an earlier, quainter communications era, ignore the wider spectrum of choices now available through cable and the Internet. Yet this is largely a phantom rainbow, for these new technologies have increasingly come under the control of the same media giants who would benefit most from loosened regulations.

All right, you're yawning. It's dry stuff. You're as underwhelmed as when Fishman's commentaries remind you of Beethoven's Fifth played on a xylophone.

But this must be stopped.

Expected to fail is a rule barring a single company from owning TV stations that reach more than 35% of U.S. households. That would rise to 45%, meaning that giant networks would be able to scoop up more stations, and in doing so potentially limit local control of programming. That centralized iron fist should worry you whether you're liberal or conservative or someone in between.

Immediately benefiting would be Viacom (owner of CBS, MTV and UPN) and News Corp. (owner of Fox and its minions). Although mergers have left them above the 35% limit, they

owning The Times and KTLA because it, too, has an FCC waiver, as does News Corp. to own the New York Post) in all but the smallest of markets.

In addition, another reported proposal would allow a company to own more than one station in a market, as Viacom and News Corp. do here, and up to three in the nation's largest markets. That means, presumably, that Tribune would be able to own not only The Times and KTLA but two additional TV stations in Los Angeles, raising the prospect of Olsen, our man in the newsroom, speaking to L.A. from a trio of stations instead of just one.

If these proposals come through, as anticipated, a door will swing open to allow more unhealthy consolidation, and the L.A. duopolies cited above would be in stone, as would be an NBC triopoly under a waiver it has here to own KNBC and Spanish-language Telemundo and KWHY.

Meaning more media control in fewer hands. Meaning more cross-promotion. Meaning less diversity. Meaning fewer independent voices in news and entertainment. Meaning less competition and fewer options for information.

It's true that what we have now is often unreliable, a fact underlined by tag-along TV's generally feckless, ever-manipulated, go-with-the-flow, yassah-Mr. President coverage of the war in Iraq and its aftermath. Everyone would profit if the quality of today's journalism were higher.

Diverse media, however imperfect, are essential to us all, however.

If Powell and his allies hold sway on these proposed revisions, America will find itself walking a perilous high wire from which its democracy may someday topple. This is not hysteria, it's what may happen.

Can we in the media be counted on to act responsibly with so many masters to serve?

Another daily I subscribe to is the Ventura County Star, a paper with many good qualities. Curiously, though, it runs news stories and columns about cable's Home & Garden Television, in addition to giving special prominence to HGTV and Food Network programs in its TV highlights on a daily basis. If you're wondering why, one possibility is that HGTV and the Food Network are distributed by E.W. Scripps Co., the same company that publishes the Ventura County Star.

Meanwhile, be sure and catch the best of the Los Angeles Times on KTLA.

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

MAY 30 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

Katharine Simmons  
4645 N Wolcott  
Chicago, IL 60640

Confirmed

JUN 03 2003

Distribution Center

5/21/03

Dear Michael Powell,

I am writing regarding the media regulations up for reconsideration this coming June. These regulations help to encourage diversity in our media. As I'm sure you know, diverse opinions are a crucial factor in a thriving democracy. I am not satisfied with the current state of the media; with corporations owning nearly all mainstream news sources. I am not convinced that Americans have access to objective news sources.

Your organization, the FCC, is responsible for monitoring the media on behalf of American citizens, not for the good of corporate interests. Please remember your responsibility to our nation during the coming debates. I encourage you and your commissioners to support all regulations limiting the ownership of media sources by companies. You have a responsibility to serve the public, even if some people's opinions and interests differ from your own.

Please let me know how you intend to proceed with this issue.

Sincerely,

Katharine Simmons

Katharine Simmons

RECEIVED & INSPECTED  
MAY 30 2003  
FCC - MAILROOM

Commissioner Copps  
FCC  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Hayley Hirano  
18029 Glenburn Ave.  
Torrance, CA  
90504  
May 22, 2003

**Confirmed**

JUN 03 2003

**Distribution Center**

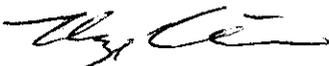
Dear Commissioner Copps,

I have recently become aware of the *attempt of Corporate Conglomerates* to further Deregulate the laws of ownership of media within American. I understand that Michael Powell, Chairman of the FCC is pushing these changes through without public hearings, Congressional Hearings, or any solid information being presented to the "people" of our country. I find this shameful and appalling, that this type of slick maneuvering is taking place without some Forum being held.

As it stands now, 60% of all media in America is owned by 3 Conglomerates, which leaves very little left for independent and diverse news and information. I ask you to stop this move by Mr. Powell, call for hearings, and to review the 1996 Deregulation Act which has brought us the likes of 1200 radio stations all owned by "Clear Channel." I believe that the Deregulation Act of 1996 needs to be amended to allow for 50 Watt FM radio stations to begin operating as soon as possible to diversify the media as our country is diversified. Don't let America be silenced by another "give away" to this administration and their corporate cronies. The Sherman Antitrust Act should be protecting us from the monopolization of our media into the hands of a few very rich and powerful people and it is seriously failing.

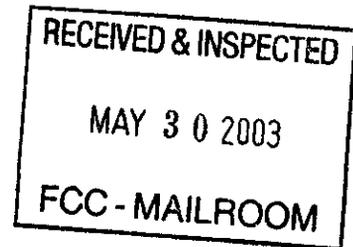
Please do not allow further consolidation of our "freedom" for information via media into the hands of the ultra right-wing factions who have taken control of our country. This of course has been done via the media which they now control the vast majority of in America. I appeal to you to act now before this vote takes place, to insure that it isn't even a bigger, more difficult fight to reverse it.

Sincerely,



Hayley Hirano

8222 Bagley Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98103  
May 20, 2003



FCC Chairman

Dear Michael Powell,

**Confirmed**

JUN 03 2003

Distribution Center

While 72% of the American people do not know about the secret but purported sweeping changes to Media control, you have allegedly refused to give citizens more time to learn about these changes. You have even kept the commissioners from sharing the changes with the public.

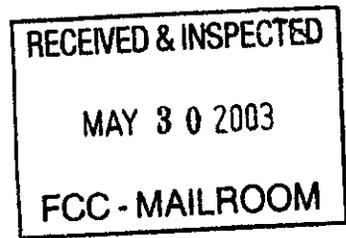
The airwaves belong to the American people and you have abrogated your duty to the people and instead have made the airwaves the property of the very rich. You have no right to bring your ideology to the fore. Do you really want to turn your back on the right of the American people to be informed, to have the right to debate and consider changes to their property.

Shame on you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Toni Ciardullo".

Toni Ciardullo



**Confirmed**  
JUN 03 2003  
**Distribution Center**

22 Grandview Rd.  
Hummelstown, PA 17036  
May 9, 2003

The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir:

Please do not relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Without hearing more than one view we could fall under a dictatorship controlled by monopoly broadcasters. For the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership rules that for decades have helped insure a healthy country.

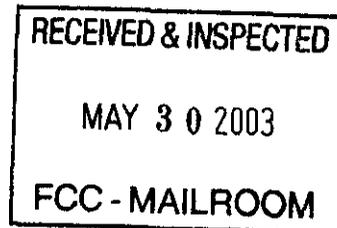
If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Sincerely,



Glenn H. Hoffer

**Confirmed**  
JUN 03 2003  
**Distribution Center**



22 Grandview Rd.  
Hummelstown, PA 17036  
May 9, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

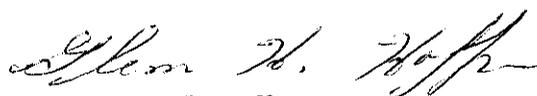
Dear Sir:

Please do not relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

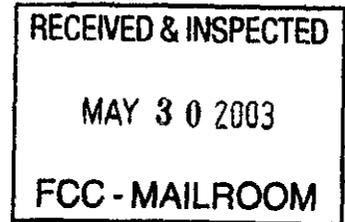
The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Without hearing more than one view we could fall under a dictatorship controlled by monopoly broadcasters. For the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership rules that for decades have helped insure a healthy country.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Sincerely,

  
Glenn H. Hoffer

**Confirmed**  
JUN 0 8 2003  
**Distribution Center**



22 Grandview Rd.  
Hummelstown, PA 17036

**Confirmed**  
JUN 0 8 2003  
**Distribution Center**

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

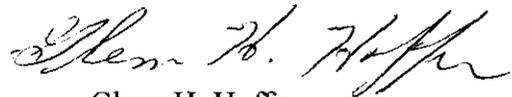
Dear Sir:

Please do not relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Without hearing more than one view we could fall under a dictatorship controlled by monopoly broadcasters. For the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership rules that for decades have helped insure a healthy country.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Sincerely,



Glenn H. Hoffer