

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: The User
To: Mike Powell
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 2:42 PM
Subject: Change in media regulations

02-277

RECEIVED

MAY - 9 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I am terrified at your endorsing the plan to do away with rules forbidding the same company/corporation to own more than a certain number of media outlets in a given market. Are you and the FCC so unaware of history that you do not know that control of the media by only one or a handful of corporations is the quickest way to kill a democracy? Just because a consumer may get "more" news and views does not mean that they are DIFFERENT news and views if it's all being put out by the same corporation.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

02-277

From: Christopher Millis
To: Mike Powell
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 11:31 AM
Subject: <No Subject>

RECEIVED

MAY - 9 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Mr. Powell:

Choice is an illusion without diversity. I urge you -- in the name of maintaining a spectrum of opinion in the broadcast media, whose name is also democracy -- to join with commissioner Michael Copps in opposing any deregulation of the industry.

Your decision will affect our freedom.

Sincerely,

Christopher Millis
Editor, artsMEDIA

From: Cate Hagman
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 6:46 PM
Subject: Concerns about media ownership rule changes

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear Mr. Copps:

I am troubled by FCC Chairman Powell's recent comments indicating that he thinks that elimination of media ownership restrictions will improve the quality of our media. On the contrary, I fear that allowing one corporation to control more and more of a single market will drive the standards of the media even lower than they have already sunk. Competition will be destroyed, not enhanced, and the American public will be the worse for it. It would be a grievous error to change those rules without further public discussion, both throughout the country and in the halls of Congress.

I know that you have been an advocate of a much more open, thoughtful discussion concerning the media ownership rules, and I greatly appreciate that.

However, I am left with the impression that Chairman Powell desires a rule change that will be quick, closed to the public and as favorable to the largest media corporations as possible. What can we do to prevent such action being taken? Will we see more of you and your colleagues at the FCC in the next few weeks before the threatened rule change?

In the meantime, I will be contacting my elected officials. I am, however, greatly worried that the opinions of the American public -- and even of elected officials -- mean virtually nothing to Chairman Powell.

Sincerely,
Catherine Hagman
8009 Eastern Drive, #304
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 585-1742

From: Vachelle McFarland
To: Mike Powell, Commissioner Adelstein, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM
KJMWEB
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 7:05 PM
Subject: Media Deregulation Vote

Dear Commissioner:

Regarding the upcoming FCC vote, further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. TV and radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues, most notably the drive to war in Iraq. As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to break up the media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Thank you,
Vachelle McFarland
Los Angeles, CA

MSN 8 helps ELIMINATE E-MAIL VIRUSES. Get 2 months FREE*.

From: surr@his.com
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 7:40 PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

As a shareholder activist regarding GE/NBC, I have found oligopolistic management particularly difficult to work with when it comes to protecting America's children from lapses of corporate responsibility, and even from abuses of Federal law in the Children's Television Act.

Sincerely,

John Surr
8217 Lilly Stone Dr.
Bethesda, Maryland 20817-4505

cc:
Senator Paul Sarbanes
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Representative Chris Van Hollen

From: surr@his.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 7:40 PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Dear FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps,

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Sincerely,

John Surr
8217 Lilly Stone Dr.
Bethesda, Maryland 20817-4505

cc:
Senator Paul Sarbanes
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Representative Chris Van Hollen

From: mhead15@rcn.com
To: john_mccain@mccain.senate.gov, fritz_hollings@hollings.senate.gov,
barbara_boxer@boxer.senate.gov, Mike Powell, KM KJMWEB, Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 7:54 PM
Subject: Re: Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation.

Dear Senators and Commissioners:

Further consolidation of the media in the name of "deregulation" must be halted. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide unbiased information about most crucial issues, most notably the recent coverage of the war in Iraq.

As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to challenge the media conglomerates, to open the broadcast spectrum to a diverse range of journalists and opinions, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. Oppose media deregulation.

Sincerely,
Marilyn F. Head
15 Belknap street
Somerville, MA 02144

From: Robert Reader
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 9:14 PM
Subject: deregulation

We ask you to postpone any deregulation legislation until the issue can be thoroughly, openly discussed and debated.

The U. S. already is faced with monopolistic media sources which greatly diminish our ability to gather and weigh information from varying points of view. To do further harm to the voter seeking information is critical. Let the legislation see the light of debate.

Mary S. Reader Rev. Dr. Robert D. Reader
4 Allerton Ave.
Middletown NY 10940

From: jkidder@email.unc.edu
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, jadelste@fcc.go
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 10:33 PM
Subject: Media concentration

Dear FCC Commisioners Powell, Abernathy, Copps, Martin and Adelstein,

Having read an AP wire about Chairman Powell's statement regarding relaxation of broadcasting ownership rules made Monday, I felt compelled to comment.

"The public may get more and better news programming if federal regulations are changed to allow newspapers to own radio and television stations..." This is bald-faced propaganda that is belied by the merest sketch of a study of communications, or even a thumbnail history of the Telecommunications act. Not since the latter have I seen such a jingoistic roll-out presentation from your office, and as we know it benefitted corporations but hurt consumers' pocketbooks.

This rules change would allow news and entertainment media to be concentrated in the hands of a fewer and fewer editorial boards. The very tone of the AP story is symptomatic of the narrow range of viewpoint presented in the media currently (most news being cost-effectively assembled from press releases). Since most outlets have a (potential) monetary vestment in the result of this ruling, of course they will not broadcast a contrary viewpoint... Unless they are too small to compete with such corporate behemoths. On such a tipped playing field, most small organizations can't compete, leading to little dissent or alternative programming presented to the consumer.

As an American, I feel that this sell-out of public intellectual space is unpatriotic. Dissent is what this republic is built on, and to narrow the range of discourse is unconscienable and unAmerican.

I want to believe that your ilk aren't cynical profiteers who've somehow hijacked the government, but this sort of rollback makes it very difficult to retain such a faith.

For the sake of democracy and your honor as citizens and represetatives of the Uniteds States of America, I urge you to reconsider your support of this ruling. We need to build in more guaruntees of all viewpoints being heard in the media. Please do not make this rules-change.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Kidder

From: jkidder@email.unc.edu
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, jadelste@fcc.gov
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 10:33 PM
Subject: Media concentration

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Sincerely,
Jonathan Kidder

From: rizon1@hotmail.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 10:49 PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Dear FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Risa Rolando
4534 Tierra Sol
Arcadia, California 91233

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer

From: Hugh
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 11:08 PM
Subject: Media Ownership Issues

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all 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.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

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, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible 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 points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

I am my no means an ultra liberal and I am no fan of Big Government. However, it is clear that media deregulation has not worked. Even the biggest supporters of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 are now admitting this isn't what they had in mind.

Government's job is to foster free enterprise by guaranteeing a level playing field. Please understand I am not talking about any kind of guarantee of success for anyone. Free markets will always have winners and losers. And media audiences at large may not pick the kind of formats or publications that I'd like them to. That's life. But the free market system - as it applies to broadcast media in this country - has become so corrupted and distorted since 1996 that something must be done.

First, no more deregulation must occur - particularly in the area of ownership limits and concentration.

Second, Congress should take a close look at restoring some ownership limits. I have no problem with a company like News Corp. (although I can't stand them personally) owning AM-FM-TV and a newspaper in a major market like New York. I would probably also have no problem with a company being able to own 2 AMs and 2 FMs along with a TV station and a newspaper in a major market. But major markets only. Below a certain level (any suggestions?), it should be 1 AM, 1 FM and 1 TV station and no print cross-ownership - at least not without a waiver from the FCC after the individual situation has been examined.

And total media ownership by a single company shouldn't be allowed to cover more than 33% of the country. I'm open to suggestions on how much any over-the-air media company should be allowed to expand into cable.

And - oh yes - any company threatening to bar airplay of recordings by a particular artist unless that artist promotes his or her concerts through them should be brought up on Federal charges - with jail terms in the offing.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Hugh

Hugh Christopher Henry
957 East 37th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11210-3431
USA

Home: 1-718-421-4288
Cell: 1-718-614-9463

CC: hch3@webtv.net

From: ethandep
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 11:28 PM
Subject: FCC Rules

Dear Sir,

We wish to register our FIRM OPPOSITION to the proposed rules changes on media ownership that are now being considered by the FCC. Allowing consolidation and cross ownership of the news media creates monopolies and will eventually result in censorship of the news.

We want to hear and see all sides of the news of the world, and have the privilege of forming our own opinions from many diverse viewpoints.

Please do not weaken or eliminate rules that now control mergers and acquisitions.

Respectfully,

Seymour Epstein

Ethel Epstein

Sun City West, AZ.

From: clarice54880@yahoo.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 10:40 AM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Dear FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Clarice Peterson
2006 Washington Avenue
Superior, Wisconsin 54880

cc:
Senator Herb Kohl
Senator Russell Feingold
Representative David Obey

From: gshea@familyenhancement.org
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 12:00 PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Dear FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps,

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Sincerely,

Gale Shea
2120 Fordem Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

cc:
Senator Herb Kohl
Senator Russell Feingold
Representative Tammy Baldwin

From: tad22@dana.ucc.nau.edu
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 12:40 PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

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Sincerely,

Teri Dillion
30 Ridgecrest #2
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

cc:
Senator John McCain
Senator Jon Kyl
Representative Rick Renzi

From: maarmijoA@cabrillo.edu
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 12:55 PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

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Sincerely,

mavel armijo
419 mccormick ave.
capitola,ca, California 95010

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Sam Farr

From: harmonyreppond@hotmail.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 1:32 PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps

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Sincerely,

harmony reppond
124 walk circle
santa cruz, California 95060

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Sam Farr

From: yinyanleung@yahoo.com
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 1:54 PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

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Sincerely,

Yin Yan Leung
5365 Sobrante Ave.
El Sobrante, California 94803-1433

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative George Miller

From: rnh2@dana.ucc.nau.edu
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 3:16 PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

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Sincerely,

Rose Hagood
NAU box 20051
Flagstaff, Arizona 86011

cc:
Senator John McCain
Senator Jon Kyl

From: athorpe@scetv.org
To: Michael Copps
Date: Mon, Apr 28, 2003 5:06 PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television!

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Sincerely,

Andrea Thorpe
1101 George Rogers Blvd.
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

cc:
Senator Lindsey Graham
Representative James Clyburn
Senator Ernest Hollings