

I attended the FCC localism hearing in Monterey, CA on July 21, 2004 but did not have an opportunity to speak in person. Below is the statement I would have given if I was able to:

My name is Susan Hubbard and I am a resident of Marina.

About 18 months ago I was involved in a movement that was able to put at least 10 million people on the streets of cities and towns all around the world on the same weekend. These rallies against the US invasion of Iraq were covered by the US media. But even with this show of support the experts and spokespeople from the antiwar movement were rarely invited on the major TV networks. When they were they were marginalized and ridiculed. They were rarely presented as experts with important information and opinions. At the same time many of the claims of the administration were printed without question even when there was evidence available showing that these claims were false.

If the owners of our national media cannot be counted on to present all sides of an issue as important as whether this country goes to war or not why should we trust them to ensure all sides of issues here in this community are given voice? They do not live in this community and have no stake in what happens here.

Before radio and TV there many outrageous examples of biased and self-serving writing in newspapers across the country. However, there were many newspapers in each community and the issues and points of view that were not included in one newspaper would be very likely covered in another. All sides of a story were covered somewhere. We still very much need this same diversity of opinions today. We need opportunities for people of different ethnicities, economic status and political affiliations to own and work in the media. Otherwise only one side of an issue will be heard. I encourage the commissioners to do all in their power to increase the number and diversity of media owners, in all forms of media, so all points of view get covered.