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Mr. Michael K. Powell
F.C.C.
445 12TH STREET, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

JAN 28 2003
Distribution Center

Dear Mr. Powell,

I am writing regarding the F.C.C.'s proposed changes to current laws that prevent companies from buying a newspaper and television station in the same city and the laws which prevent companies from owning more than one TV station in the same market. I do not favor these proposed changes.

These proposed changes are dangerous. Our sources of information would shrink as fewer and fewer companies control information and news gathering. The internet does not eliminate this danger. Most news information on the Web is taken from newspapers and television sources. We do not need monopolies as happened with radio after 1996's changes. The two biggest companies went from owning 130 stations to more than 1,400. Democracy thrives on diverse sources of information.

The current FCC rules that you propose to change are important safeguards of Democracy.

I believe your charge as chairman of the FCC is to first protect and promote the interests of the people. The airwaves belong first to the people. The interests of powerful companies should not be the factor which shapes public policy and law. Allowing one or two companies in every American city or town to control newspapers, TV, radio and bill boards is the possibility that these proposed changes present. This would reduce discourse and diversity and ultimately democracy.

We need more than one public hearing regarding such astounding changes. Please have the courage to represent more than the interests of the corporate elite. You have a real opportunity to nurture democracy.

Sincerely,

Linda Freeman