

Dear Chariman Martin,

It appears that the FCC under your direction, as it did under Chariman Powell's direction, will soon take steps to increase the opportunities for corporations to own a greater number of media outlets.

I won't bother you with lengthy discussion about why such consolidation is not in the interest of Americans, you have heard plenty of that, no doubt.

I will just state, as a reminder, that the airways in particular are not owned by the FCC or, for that matter by the companies that hold licenses to use them. Nor are the airways owned by the White House. They are owned by the American people. Corporations are certainly made up of American people for the most part but the media corporation itself is on the wrong side of the equation to have what appears to be a greater influence on this issue than justice and fairness would warrant.

As one who provides news to the public each week I can say without hesitation that there is quite a bit that is not getting through to the public over the airwaves. Once you make a decision to allow for a license it is then out of the hands of the American public who must live with your decision even if they are getting short changed. Consequently, the American public must weigh in on this matter as thoroughly as possible.

With that in mind, you would not be doing your job if you did not provide a far reaching campaign to inform and engage the American people to comment on this current effort. And I don't mean a meeting or two and then leaving the job to two Commissioners to travel the country and create their own meetings as was the case during Chairman Powell's tenure. I mean numerous well placed and well advertised public meetings and encouragement for Internet, FAX, telephone participation in the public comment process done in such a way that the maximum public comment can be made and measured.

I would hope you will consider these remarks.

Regards,
Robert H. McElroy