

Dear Chairperson:

Let me introduce myself to you. My name is Roberta Gallant and I reside in Concord, New Hampshire.

The Federal Communications Commission has failed to monitor and foster more minority ownership of television stations. Something is terribly wrong with our media system when minorities comprise such substantial parts of the United States' population but own so few broadcast outlets.

A recent report from the media reform organization Free Press found that while minorities make up 33 percent of the U.S. population, only 3.26 percent of all broadcast stations are owned by minorities. The report also finds that the number of minority owned stations has dropped since more consolidated media ownership was permitted in the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

Diversity is the democratic media system's cornerstone; we cannot afford to lose it in any way. This is unconscionable for the Federal Communications Commission to let large media owners buy up more local media outlets before redressing the agency's failure to foster minority voices in the media.

The Federal Communications Commission should not allow relaxation or elimination of the limits on media ownership without first hearing out widespread public concern about the problems of minority representation and lack of minority broadcast station owners. Allowing further concentration of local media markets, will only worsen the problems we already have.

Our democracy requires the free flow of local information from diverse voices. The FCC should stand firm with the public against further concentration of media ownership in the hands of the few.

Respectfully,
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