

11.21.06

MB 06-121

To the FCC:

ABOUT THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

About six years ago, an attempt to hijack a radio station culminated in the lockout of the station manager and the changed entrance locks of the station. The listeners had known for the past year that the tone of the programers had changed, but no one knew why. The many new rules about subject matter and manners of speech seemed odd for a listener supported station. Then, when the Xmas Coup happened, we were in shock! Listeners fled down to New York City from all around the country to protect this entity on the FM dial. The programers didn't know where to broadcast from and some, like Amy Goodman, moved her program, "Democracy Now!" to a firehouse in China town. For so many, this radio 99.5 FM was their Wake-up call, their community news, their creative soul that touched all nationalities and languages and now their breath was taken away.

We fought back, hired lawyers, and won a historic victory, rescuing the network from the corporate hijacking and establishing a new way to run the station. This station is WBAI, one of five listener supported Pacifica Radio Stations across the country.

I am telling you this story because, real, local community voices matter to everyone. Local news is vital to each village and can't be treated the same as the next town or city. I don't want to hear the same news, music, etc. on every radio spot, with hyped up voices saying the same thing meaning nothing!

Thank you.

Joan Grishman



No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

042

FILED/ACCEPTED
DEC 20 2006
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary



Gary Bischoff
Ulster County Legislator, District 4
Representing Saugerties, Ulster and Town of Kingston

www.gary4ulster.com
845-246-6858 home 845-246-9013 day
845-247-9028 Fax

MB 06-121

FILED/ACCEPTED

NOV 20 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

November 21, 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to address this hearing. I am concerned about the state of media in this country both as a citizen and elected official. I am speaking not only as an elected official, but a concerned citizen, a former newspaper columnist and a radio talk show host.

My partner, Art Richter and myself are so concerned about the lack of diverse political prospective that we started a weekly radio show that covers local, state and national issues. For well over a year, we have been hosting *Radio Free Kingston* a call-in show on WKNY out of Kingston, NY on Sunday afternoons. We took positive action on our own to create a program that presents progressive issues, and we encourage our listeners to understand how policies them and how vital it is to get informed and to get involved. One of the topics that we have repeatedly covered is responsible media, and the role of media in our society.

We believe that there is an audience of people that will read newspapers or listen to or watch programming that gives a balanced point of view and informs them about important issues. Local media outlets are critical for citizens to know and understand local issues that directly affect their lives.

As more and more radio stations, TV stations and newspapers get gobbled up by larger and larger companies, the first thing that we loose is coverage of local issues and local government. We need policies that favor local communities and their needs rather than the needs of corporations. Policies must be put in place that promote diverse local ownership of media.

The Federal Communications Commission is charged with monitoring compliance with the public interest requirement. It is vital that the FCC makes sure that broadcast stations truly serve their listening publics' needs. The airwaves are a public resource that must be regulated so that it benefits the greatest number of people rather than being used for the greatest profits. The corporations and wealthy broadcasters should not have more influence over FCC policy than regular citizens.

I urge the FCC to enact and strengthen protections against consolidated corporate ownership.

MB 06-121

**Testimony to Nov. 21 FCC Hearing on Further Media Consolidation
by Suzy Kass
Montclair, New Jersey**

FILED/ACCEPTED
FEB 20 2006
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Through media content we learn about ourselves - locally, nationally and globally. The more diverse the content, the more nuanced our understanding. It doesn't take sophisticated market analysis to know that public interest suffers as profit becomes paramount. When lobbyists spend millions seeking favorable action from the FCC as they do now, who speaks for us?

The following anecdote illustrates the lack of local coverage as I have experienced it. I come from Montclair NJ, which is part of the metropolitan NY area. In the wake of 9/11, I dealt with my personal distress by becoming more politically active. A few of us started a grassroots group called BlueWaveNJ. During the election season of 2005 we hosted a stem cell forum meant to educate the public as it considered the very different stances held by our gubernatorial candidates. Our forum featured the Dean of Columbia University Medical School; the head of Columbia University's Bioethics Institute and a senior editor from *Newsweek* magazine— this was quite literally a world-class event held in our area and sponsored by our group. Though we distributed press releases widely, not one news source covered it. When our efforts were ignored, we quickly produced 2 television ads, at great personal expense, to achieve our goals. Embryonic stem-cell research ultimately became a signature issue in Jon Corzine's successful campaign, but only through tremendous work and expense were we able to make our voices heard. NY is a huge media market and localism is almost nonexistent but here was a case where the issue had broad impact and we were still unable to be heard. We are left to wonder about the stories and concerns of the people in our community whose voices we rarely hear.

Localism and diversity are the cornerstones of a democratic media system, cornerstones that can be eroded and lost without careful attention. As we compromise them we risk compromising our country and ourselves. We urge the FCC to refrain from making changes that favor yet more media consolidation. If you need better reasons than those I give, a good place to get them might be from your own study, conducted under Chairman Powell's tenure, that shows media consolidation is harmful to local communities.

We ask the FCC to rule in the public interest and preserve the Television-Radio Cross Ownership Rule, the Broadcast-Newspaper Cross Ownership Ban, the National Television Ownership Rule, the Duopoly Rule for Radio, the Local Television Ownership Rule, and the Dual Network Rule.

MB 06-12
RECEIVED/ACCEPTED
FEB 20 2006
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

TESTIMONY BEFORE FCC MEDIA HEARING, November 21, 2006

My name is Pat Lamanna and I live in Poughkeepsie, New York. I am a member of the Dutchess Peace Coalition.

Last October 20, the Dutchess Peace Coalition and the Praxis Program at Marist College hosted a talk by Elizabeth Holtzman on the subject: "The Political Implications of Impeachment." A few days before the talk, a reporter from the Poughkeepsie Journal was contacted and he said he would cover the talk. I also wrote a letter to the Journal to inform their readers, knowing that it would more likely be seen on the letters page than buried in a calendar. Now, the Poughkeepsie Journal has printed just about every letter I have ever sent them. I know they have a policy of not publishing more than one letter by the same writer in a month, but it had been several months since I wrote to them.

The day of the talk came; the reporter from the Poughkeepsie Journal did not. My letter also was not printed. The talk was announced; buried on the calendar page. In my view, an appearance by a former Congresswoman on a topic as important as this should have received more coverage. I can't say that it was not covered for political reasons, but I can say that events of this kind are frequently ignored, while visits to the area by politicians, or even former politicians, for other reasons are generally well-covered.

Also - lack of reporting on S.O.A. demonstrations.

I'd also like to put in a plug for Net Neutrality. The Internet was alluded to as a partial antidote to the tyranny of the major media outlets. I'm concerned that those same media outlets will move on to take over the Internet. We can't allow that to happen!

MR 06-121

Thank you all for the work you're doing, and thank you for bringing this hearing to the Hudson Valley, the participatory citizenship capital of America.

I have read and re-read the proposed Media Reform Act. I think it's a bill of excellent intent, but unfortunately it contains a loophole that must be closed if it is to have any effect. As written, because continued consolidation would be possible in an invisible manner, the bill can inadvertently lead to things getting worse. This is a common problem with well intended legislation (such as the creation of no-limit 527's being a product of what seemed to be a well-intentioned McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform law), and maybe this time we can catch it in time.

Clear Channel, the high-profile (but by no means singular) bogeyman of the post-Telecommunications Act of 1996 era, is being bought by a pair of "private equity" firms, and there are bidding wars under way in other media sectors as well. There is no way to know who owns any portion of equity firms and funds. While the legislation as now written could prevent, say, the Carlyle Group from owning too many radio stations, there is no way to know if the key shareholders of Carlyle are also key shareholders in Bain Capital or any number of holding companies. By simply buying controlling stakes in many equity funds that then acquire media outlets within the new regulations, the same five people can own everything, nobody would know it, and no law would have been broken, meaning there could be no public recourse.

As we can see from this week's headlines, this process is already well under way. TH Lee, one of the groups in the Clear Channel deal, already holds significant media positions. Carlyle has vast telecommunications technology and manufacturing holdings upon which the media industry operates. If holding companies are left unchecked, all media could soon be exclusively in the service of what best profits the overall portfolios of the funds, with the limited "public interest" portions carefully crafted to influence the public in support of the portfolio's profit centers. The current state of mainstream talk-radio shows this practice to already be dominant. If the media reform effort is to accomplish its mission, the legislation must include language that requires all individuals acquiring ownership of media be entirely known, so that proper accounting can be done to insure that the intent of the legislation is accomplished.

It's probable that corporate law at federal and state levels must eventually be altered to ban secrecy of ownership in equity funds and their relatives, but that's a longer-term project. For now I ask the FCC to issue an advisory to the SEC that it opposes media acquisitions by equity funds on the basis that it makes current FCC regulations unenforceable. I would also ask Congressman Hinchey and his co-sponsors to amend the Media Reform Act to ensure that, regardless of the prospects for general reform of corporate law and ending "corporate personhood," that no equity fund may protect the anonymity and ownership stakes of its individual members when the fund owns or seeks to own media.

The operation of portfolios, equity funds, hedge funds, trusts, holding companies, tax shelters, etc. for holders of vast personal wealth is deliberately complex and difficult to trace, let alone regulate. These days, there are more holders of vast personal wealth (as opposed to just plain major personal wealth) than at any time in history, and due to post-1980 bi-partisan "trickle up" economic policies, the amounts involved are a higher percentage of total wealth than at any time since the "robber baron" era. Let's try to get this one right before we do all this public outreach work, build a legislative majority, enact law, throw ourselves a party, and find out nothing's getting better.

Steve Greenfield
6 Mountain View Place South
New Paltz, NY 12561

bicyclesax@earthlink.net
(845) 255-2516

Steve Greenfield
11/21/06

FILED/ACCEPTED

NOV 20 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

MB 06 121

Statement of Andrea Novick, Northeast Citizens for Responsible Media

Presented to the FCC November 21, 2006

FILED/ACCEPTED
DEC 20 2006
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

My name is Andi Novick. I am an attorney and one of the founders of Northeast Citizens for Responsible Media, a grass roots organization formed in the Hudson Valley last year to, among other things, raise awareness about the dire need to reform the corporate media or suffer the demise of this experiment we call democracy.

I was thinking that this public hearing is the perfect metaphor for the message we want you to take back to Congress and to Chairman Martin. Tonight regular citizens, who are never heard from over their own airwaves, had their voices heard in this room. And hundreds more, who never get the opportunity to learn from so many different voices, got to hear.

Tonight, the issue of our right to information- which is the essential tool of a free people- and how our airwaves are to be used to serve our constitutionally guaranteed entitlement to that information, enjoyed a much needed public dialogue. And no one corporate entity was able to silence those public voices in favor of the private voice of commercialism.

Three hours and not one insulting commercial: no one violating my space trying to get me to part with my money under false pretenses. Tonight I was treated with dignity, as a citizen; not pandered to, as a consumer.

Tonight we discussed the kind of information essential to a democracy: the kind of information our no longer free press, by which I mean all the media, refuses to report.

Imagine if our media was actually used to keep us informed about all the issues we need to know in order to be self-governing citizens. What a REVOLUTIONARY idea! So I have a recommendation I'd like you to take back to Washington: Why not enshrine this concept in some document-call it a Constitution. And live by it.

Thank you

MB 06-121
FILED/ACCEPTED
DEC 20 2006
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Statement of Jeff Cohen, ex-NBC employee
Presented to the FCC November 21, 2006

I want to welcome Commissioner Capps to the Hudson Valley. I'm a media critic and commentator. Our region has been hard-hit by the conflicts of interest that come with media conglomeration. For decades up thru 1976, General Electric plants contaminated our mighty Hudson River by dumping toxic PCB chemicals -- and for decades after, GE used its political clout to block a cleanup of the river. GE's clout increased in 1986 when it acquired NBC; GE put in charge of NBC an executive named Bob Wright, whose experience at GE was in its financial services and plastics divisions.

Five years ago, the federal Environmental Protection Agency finally ruled that GE should pay millions of dollars toward a river cleanup. Soon after, NBC president Wright led a GE lobbying team that tried to convince the NY City Council NOT to endorse the cleanup. Here was the president of NBC, which owns national networks and a powerful local TV station, brazenly lobbying on one side of a public controversy. NBC employees were sent the clear message that balanced journalism of the Hudson River issue would endanger their careers.

A year later, Bob Wright became my boss -- when NBC's cable channel MSNBC hired me as a news producer and an on-air commentator. At MSNBC, during the run-up to the Iraq war, I saw firsthand the suppression of balanced journalism and the muzzling of dissent -- a threat to democratic discourse when powerful, politically-active conglomerates like GE are allowed to own so many media outlets. I was senior producer on MSNBC's primetime Phil Donahue show when it was terminated 3 weeks before the Iraq invasion, which most people now agree has been a foreign policy disaster. When terminated, "Donahue" was MSNBC's most watched program. We know from leaked internal NBC memos that Phil Donahue's cancellation was politically-motivated. He was deemed too independent and skeptical about the impending war. I tell the whole story in my book "Cable News Confidential."

In summary, there are now 5 conglomerates that dominate TV news -- on both broadcast and cable TV. I've taken paychecks from 3 of them. For democracy to be healthy, for future policy disasters to be avoided, we need federal communications policy to de-monopolize television and radio. Instead of lifting broadcasting ownership caps, we should be lowering them so one individual or company cannot have, nationally, more than a handful of TV and radio licenses. That's the only way toward a genuine marketplace of news and opinion which democracy requires.

PS. As a media critic, I've long monitored talk radio. Among the thousands of callers offering hundreds of ways to fix our country -- from traditional values to prayer in schools to campaign finance reform -- I've never once heard anyone argue that what's holding back our country's greatness is that a single firm cannot buy up large numbers of TV or radio stations. The fact that there is absolutely no mass constituency for media consolidation, and yet it has persisted for 2 decades, indicates that federal media policy has corruptly served economic special interests and not the public interest.

MB ALI/AL
FILED/ACCEPTED

Statement of Deedee Halleck, Filmmaker
Presented to the FCC November 21, 2006

11/21/2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I am an independent producer and one of the founders of Deep Dish Television and Free Speech TV which have been providing alternative programming to community channels throughout the US via satellite for decades. I am a past president of the Association for Independent Video and Filmmakers and a former trustee of the American Film Institute. My films have been screened in many international festivals and one was nominated for an Academy Award.

In 2001 I worked with Deep Dish TV to initiate the television version of Democracy Now! which was at that time a radio program on five stations. Our efforts have created the largest public media collaboration in the United States. Our main television outlet is through PEG- public government and educational access. There is no other way for local and alternative programming to reach a television audience than with the channels required for the public interest on cable and for Direct Broadcast Satellite.

I am often asked to speak in other countries about US PEG, as people everywhere see this as an important model for community use of public infrastructure. Last month I attended a UNESCO forum on implementation of the Civil Society Declaration that was a result of the World Summit on the Information Society, in which process which I have been one of the few active US participants. The airwaves, rights of way and orbital paths belong to the people, not only here in the US, but around the world. These are global issues. Use of public space by commercial entities must require a public interest "payback".

PEG is a model that could be applied to all broadcast, satellite and IP media. Commercial media do not adequately serve local community needs and interest. Consolidation of media exacerbates the problem. Although in many communities, PEG is under-utilized, it is an important example that needs to be expanded. We ask the FCC to commission studies to evaluate the policies and practices of PEG access and community regulation of telecommunication. We ask Congress and the FCC to hold additional official public hearings and fora in local communities across the US that address the need for media regulation in this country--regulation that can provide outlets for the many diverse creative voices of our country. We need public airwaves to address the crucial issues of our time.

MB 06-121
FILED/ACCEPTED

11-1-20 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Statement of Professor William Hoynes, Vassar College

Presented to the FCC November 21, 2006

I am a Professor of Sociology at Vassar College here in Poughkeepsie. I was founding Director of Vassar's Media Studies program, and my research and teaching focus on the media industry in the United States. My primary concern is with the availability and quality of local news. The findings of recent research on media ownership show quite clearly that consolidation in the media industry undermines localism and diversity in news. Local news is rarely a priority for national and regional media companies. Instead of investing in local reporting, large media companies are far more likely to make staff cuts in local newsrooms, consolidate news gathering operations among multiple news outlets, and produce generic news content that is not connected to local communities. In contrast, locally owned media outlets are far more likely than national chains to emphasize local news, highlight issues of importance to communities, and provide access to a range of local perspectives on issues and events.

Communities, especially those like the Hudson Valley that are on the margins of major media markets, need local news and information in our print and broadcast media. Our best chance to have robust local content -- about village, town, and county government; economic and environmental issues in our communities; local schools, the arts, and cultural activities -- is with newspapers and radio stations that are locally owned. Media in the Hudson Valley are already highly concentrated. Local broadcast news -- on both television and radio -- is very limited, and most of our print media are owned by regional or national newspaper groups. If the FCC further relaxes or eliminates existing media ownership rules, there is every reason to believe that media in the Hudson Valley will become even more consolidated, local news will continue to decline, and local communities will suffer the consequences of consolidation. We need news that provides regular substantive coverage of local issues and includes diverse perspectives from within our communities. Current ownership restrictions must be maintained -- even strengthened -- if we are to protect the possibility of genuinely local media that serve their communities.

Thank you.

MR 06-121

Statement of Professor Branda Miller, The Sanctuary for Independent Media
Presented to the FCC November 21, 2006

the
**Sanctuary for
Independent Media**

I am a Professor of Media Arts at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the Education and Outreach Director at The Sanctuary for Independent Media in Troy, New York. I am also an Emmy awarding winning filmmaker who has worked extensively in the mass media industry in Hollywood and New York City.

PEG ACCESS empowers people to "become the media," providing democratic access to available technologies and information, teaching people how to produce media and organize media advocacy.

The Sanctuary for Independent Media is uniquely situated in the economically disadvantaged area of North Troy, where we are dedicated to serve our local neighborhood and surrounding community. This underserved population could be most definitely served through PEG ACCESS.

A stone's throw from the technologically innovative environment of RPI and the Capital District's "Tech Valley, Troy has become home to a growing community of "tech/ art savants," including graduates from the world recognized electronic arts program at RPI and artists moving to Troy to be part of the expanding arts scene. Although the Capital District has framed itself as "Tech Valley," it is woefully lacking in media arts and technology workshops and training opportunities. With PEG ACCESS, we can tap on these talents of the region and connect them with undervalued resources-- the community. PEG ACCESS will support the professional development of citizens and organizations who otherwise may not find opportunity to learn essential skills essential for success in "Tech Valley" and in their everyday lives.

PEG ACCESS will serve diverse populations: 1) underserved communities, especially youth in our neighborhood, 2) regional networks to connect skilled media artists with aspiring media professionals, and 3) local citizens who have no voice, and are in desperate need of access to communicate the significant contributions they are making to society.

A great need exists to connect networks of media artists, alternative media resources, and organizations and individuals in desperate need of training here. PEG ACCESS will amplify local voices, and be a resource to under-served neighborhoods surrounding the Sanctuary in North Troy, the Capital District and the Hudson Valley region.

PEG ACCESS is necessary to serve the population of the Capital Region with much needed resources vital to securing an involved citizenry in a democratic society. Citizens of this democratic society can maximize available resources from the technological landscape to build an engaged population, and support the media reform movement in NY State's Capital Region and the surrounding Northeast Region.

It is clear that the citizens of this local area, as well as the citizens of our entire nation, are being deprived of their basic rights for access to the public airwaves. In this era of media consolidation, this is becoming a significant issue to the average man and woman, bringing together a coalition of voters from across the spectrum who are demanding their rights to use information technologies not only as consumers but as active, informed citizens and creative producers in a democratic society.

FILED/ACCEPTED

NOV 20 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

MB 06-FILED/ACCEPTED
DEC 20 2006
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Statement of Professor Steve Pierce, Media Alliance-NY
Presented to the FCC November 21, 2006

Steve Pierce is a media activist and multi-media producer and current Executive Director of Media Alliance -NY. He teaches Radio Production and Ethics of Technology at RPI, where he received a PhD from the Department of Science and Technology Studies. Past experience in media reform includes: Executive Director, Deep Dish TV Network, New York NY, 1989-92, Assistant Manager, Pacifica Radio WBAI, New York NY, 1988-89, Program Director, WWOZ Radio, New Orleans, LA, 1987-88, and Journalist, New Orleans LA, 1980-87.

Media access-- with television, with internet, with radio-- effectively functions as every citizens' "#2 priority," giving voice, educating and promoting consciousness and thereby serving as a compelling catalyst to a truly democratic society.

Media Alliance is working on three fronts: media advocacy and lobbying in the NY State Capital Region, creating a local base for media literacy, education and networking, and hands-on skills training (in collaboration with the Hudson Mohawk Independent Media Center). As Media Alliance, we have a public program at The Sanctuary For Independent Media, a lobbying component which includes participating in the NY State Chapter of the Alliance for Community Media, as well as collaborating with the Prometheus Radio Project on spectrum reform. We bring media reform movers and shakers to the Capital Region, teach people how to produce their own media, and organize media advocacy.

Within our core group are media artists and educators with years of expertise. Together, we represent decades of experience in video and radio production, media arts and community education, and grassroots independent media. We came to understand through our personal and political experience that in an increasingly censored media landscape there was a growing constituency of diverse communities who desperately needed a Sanctuary—a place to gather to network, screen independent and innovative media, and strategize how to use media to further our intersecting goals for ensuring a democratic communications infrastructure.

At our home in The Sanctuary for Independent Media, a media arts center located in an historic former church in Troy, NY, we provide screening, production and performance facilities, training in media production and a meeting space for artists, community members and independent media makers. We are dedicated to addressing issues that mainstream media neglects; we do not conceal our politics behind false objectivity. We hope to empower people to "become the media" by providing democratic access to available technologies and information.

After years of organizing within mainstream political venues to address critical needs for citizen media access, our "David and Goliath" struggle against highly conservative controlling interests hit roadblocks and ultimate rejection. Because a "statistically accurate" community needs assessment conducted in the course of our work to establish local public access cable television resources reaffirmed a strong demand for media reform in our area, we embraced the only solution: to function outside the mainstream and realize our dream independently. The great response serves as evidence of the vacuum that exists, and the will of the people to have a voice.

Public Access serves citizens in areas like ours-- a local neighborhood, comprised of a low income population, with a high percentage of people of color. The neighborhood, once the heart of the American Industrial Revolution's working class, is now struggling with abandoned buildings, infested with crime and drug problems. Access to television and the internet will directly contribute to this underserved population, supporting after school youth and adult media workshops for the neighborhood, such as training in radio and video. Collaboration with other local groups, including the Ark Community Charter School and TAP (Troy Assistance Program), would offer access to those who otherwise cannot afford it in North Troy.

Proof of the strong desire for access is evidenced through the rapid networking by pre-existing networks and institutions at The Sanctuary, including the Albany Social Justice Center, AK Press, Amnesty International, the ARK, the Arts Department at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace, Campus Action, Capital Region Labor Coalition, Chatham Peace Initiative, the Community Renewable Energy project, Deep Dish TV, Deep Listening Institute, Democracy Now!, Easton Mountain Retreat Center, Free 103 Point 9, Friends of Hudson, Fonkoze, Friends of WRPI, Honest Weight Food Coop, Hunger Action Network, NY Bicycling Coalition, Planned Parenthood, Prison Action Network, Prometheus Radio Project, Troy Assistance Program, Troy Bike Rescue, Troy Labor Council, Save the Pinebush, SUNY Albany Campus Greens, and Women Against War.

With further resources, we aim to further the collaborations we have already developed in the low-income neighborhood directly surrounding us.

We are serving the population of the Capital Region with much needed independent media resources so vital to securing an involved citizenry in a democratic society. Our initial success affirms the large demand and lack of resources for television, radio and internet access. Access to information technologies gives greater voice to the local, and offers a much needed resource to neighborhoods without resources to have a voice, especially surrounding the Sanctuary locally in North Troy while at the same time rippling throughout Upstate New York and connecting the region to a global Information network.

MB 06-121

Testimony to the FCC at the Henry A. Wallace Educational Center
FDR Home, Library & Museum National Historic Site
21 November 2006

FILED/ACCEPTED
11/21/2006
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

When I moved here 20 years ago from a medium sized city with 3 network franchises each with local news teams, there was one local TV station in the mid-Hudson Valley. Now there is none. Twenty years ago there were local voices on the radio. Now those voices are few. Like our nation the Hudson Valley has grown. Our population is more diverse. There are more competing interests and greater pressures on our resources.

In the past twenty years our national media outlets have also grown. We now have whole cable networks devoted to News 24-7, but the variety of voices has shrunk. Our news sources have become more homogenous. Taking their cue from the self-reinforcing national tone of their corporate parents, our local news follows the national mold. All opinion, save the shrill syndicates, is muted. Investigative reporting is deemed offensive. Local voices have been lost while as a nation we have become more parochial in our outlook.

One example:

When there were huge war protests in New York City or Washington DC, the number of peaceful protestors was grossly undercounted, the civil liberties violations were ignored, and only the aberrant altercations were reported. When peace advocates organize and take to the street corners of Rhinebeck or Poughkeepsie there is no news coverage at all. No interviews, no account of the size or basis of public opinion pro or con. Had the agonized sentiments of people across the country been reported in all their local media, together we might have stimulated a national dialogue and resolved or avoided the great national and international tragedy that is the Iraq war.

We are here in the Henry A. Wallace Center at a national historic landmark site. Here are his words written in 1944:

The American fascist would prefer not to use violence. His method is to poison the channels of public information. With a fascist the problem is never how best to present the truth to the public but how best to use the news to deceive the public into giving the fascist and his group more money or more power.

Congressman, Commissioner, please help us to disaggregate that power and return our public voices to the people.

Submitted by:

Joanne Lukacher
Staatsburg, New York

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC 20 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

June 30, 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

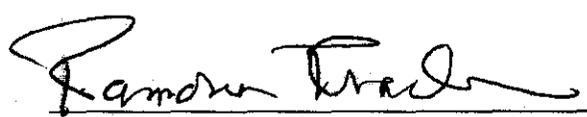
This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet). Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature: 

Print Name: RAMONA TRADON

Address: 105 BROADHEAD RD.

Town, State, Zip: W-SARAKAN NY 12494

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership

FILED/ACCEPTED

June 30, 2006

JUN 30 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet). Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature:



Print Name:

THOMAS WANDERING

Address:

6 Da Vinci Way

Town, State, Zip:

New Paltz, NY 12561

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership FILED/ACCEPTED

June 30, 2006

JUN 20 2006
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Member of Congress:

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet.) Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature: Sara M. Morrison

Print Name: Sara M. Morrison

Address: 27 Starhaven Ave.

Town, State, Zip: Middletown, NY 10940

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership

FILED/ACCEPTED

June 30, 2006

JUN 20 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Member of Congress:

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet.) Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature:

A. Stephen Larsen

Print Name:

A. Stephen Larsen

Address:

475 River Rd Bxt

Town, State, Zip:

New Paltz NY 12561

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership

FILED/ACCEPTED

June 30, 2006

DEC 20 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet.) Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature:



Print Name:

TULA TALIS

Address:

293 Cascade Rd.

Town, State, Zip:

Warwick NY 10994

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership

FILED/ACCEPTED

June 30, 2006

DEC 20 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

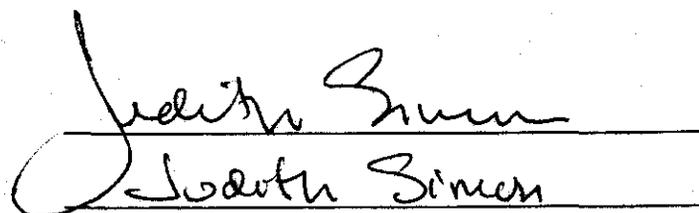
It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet.) Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature:



Print Name:

Judith Simon

Address:

16 Lois Lane

Town, State, Zip:

Saugerties NY, 12477

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership

FILED/ACCEPTED

June 30, 2006

DEC 20 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet.) Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature: Lance Stalzer

Print Name: Lance Stalzer

Address: 91 Esopus Ave.

Town, State, Zip: Ulster Park, NY 12487

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership

FILED/ACCEPTED

June 30, 2006

DEC 20 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

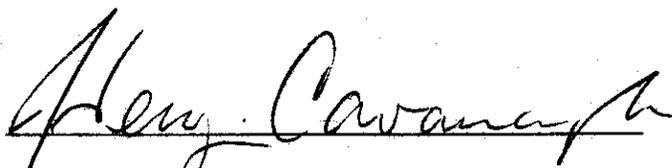
It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet.) Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature:



Print Name:

HENRY CAVANAGH

Address:

679 LAPLA ROAD

Town, State, Zip:

KINGSTON, N.Y. 12401

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership

FILED/ACCEPTED

June 30, 2006

D+C 2 0 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet.) Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature:

Barbara Ellman

Print Name:

Barbara Ellman

Address:

88 Ratterman Rd

Town, State, Zip:

Woodstock, NY 12498

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership

FILED/ACCEPTED

June 30, 2006

DEC 20 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet). Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature:

Donna Calavecchio

Print Name:

Donna Calavecchio

Address:

PO Box 437

Town, State, Zip:

Rosendale, NY 12472

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership

FILED/ACCEPTED

June 30, 2006

DEC 20 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet). Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature:

Bernard Rosen

Print Name:

BERNARD ROSEN

Address:

64 COUNTRY CLUB LANE

Town, State, Zip:

WOODSTOCK, N.Y. 12498

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership

FILED/ACCEPTED

June 30, 2006

DEC 20 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet). Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature: Lisa Langway

Print Name: LISA LANGWAY

Address: 15 PRINCESS LN.

Town, State, Zip: KERTHUNKSON NY 12440

MB 06-121

Letter Opposing Relaxation of FCC Standards re: Media Ownership

FILED/ACCEPTED

June 30, 2006

DEC 20 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I wish to join the millions of Americans opposed to any relaxation of the FCC's standards governing media ownership. Reports that the FCC is re-visiting the same proposed rules changes that resulted in a firestorm of public outrage from all corners of American society back in 2003 shocks and dismays me. Indeed, the regulations governing same market media ownership need to be strengthened, not diluted.

This nation was founded upon a bedrock principle that encouraged many voices to speak freely and contribute openly to the chorus of democracy. Allowing one media conglomerate to own as many as three television stations, eight radio stations and the sole daily newspaper within a single city—as had been proposed in 2003—would grant one company's managers a virtual stranglehold over all editorial content flowing into that community. Its monopolistic advantage would stifle other media's ability to flourish and present alternative views. In effect, the chorus of ideas that we value in our democracy would be diminished to a tedious monotone, droning out one company's preferred view of the world, culture and politics. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

It is of fundamental importance that you ensure the FCC follows its mandate to police the private corporations to whom it leases our public airwaves. It is even more important that neither the FCC nor Congress give in to the mounting pressure of the media conglomerate lobby, as it seeks ever-greater control over existing markets, as well as emerging markets (such as the Internet). Diversity is our ultimate ally. Please do your part to preserve and encourage the diversity of voices and free flow of ideas that are critical to our democracy.

As James Madison once said: "A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

We urge you to support the efforts of Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY22) and fellow members of the Future of American Media Caucus, which is working diligently to protect the critical check on the power of government that the founding fathers intended by enshrining the protection of a free press in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

Signature: Syndie Hazland
Print Name: SYNDIE HAZLAND
Address: PO BOX 149
Town, State, Zip: W. Hurley NY 12491