

Dear FCC:

I am an electrical engineering graduate of Columbia University of New York and have worked in the computer and telecommunications industry for several years. I realize that it is the natural instinct for large media corporations to want to compete with each other and work in the interest of increasing their profits. This is natural for a business. Even so, most honest people in the media industry, while wanting to earn a good living, are also willing to abide by the fair rules of practice laid out by democratically elected governments. This is where the FCC comes in. It is the FCC's responsibility to act in the interest of all persons in our democratic society. To ensure equal access to the means of communications, and to promote the common good in telecommunications. The FCC can set the direction of the media industry by ensuring that no one player or small group of players monopolize communications in our democracy.

That said, I am sending you the following form letter which I'm sure you have already received from many other citizens, to ask you to do everything in your power to promote the diversity and freedom in the airways and media.

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I am writing to express my outrage that the FCC has failed in efforts to monitor and foster more minority ownership of television stations. There is something terribly wrong with our media system when minorities comprise such substantial parts of the U.S. population but own so few broadcast outlets.

A recent report by the media reform organization Free Press found that 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 cornerstone of a democratic media system; we cannot afford to lose it in any way. It would be unconscionable for the FCC 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 FCC 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.

