

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE**  
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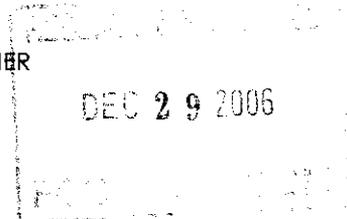


**COUNCILMEMBER**  
Barbara E. Brenner

06-121

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL**

FROM THE DESK OF COUNCILMEMBER BARBARA BRENNER



December 19, 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners,

Please add my name to the many who oppose any more efforts to shrink the media competition in our country.

As a local public servant I see every day how much more difficult it is for residents to obtain relevant news in a timely manner. Some have just given up. Many get distorted information from whatever website they have seen or biased shock jock they have just heard. Most, including myself are suffering from lack of sufficient objective information, including reasoned analysis of both sides, to make informed decisions on national issues.

This is another example of government for sale that will end up destroying it. I believe strongly in the country in which I grew up. Today I see this kind of corruption and say shame on the commissioners who support selling our news to the highest bidder.

As a reminder, when I first started in public service we had numerous separate radio stations reporting local, national, and international stories. We even had a station that allowed both sides of issues to be discussed at the same time by an interviewer who never divulged where he stood-and no one ever knew. We had an almost local television station from Canada that ensured morning and evening local news. Now if you are really conscientious and get up at 5:30 a.m. you can still catch a smidgen of local news on TV. We have one company owning all private local radio stations. We always know where most interviewers stand on issues because most of them interrupt guests to say so if necessary. In all fairness to these interviewers, they do what they have to do to keep their jobs. After all, without competition it's a captive audience for fewer corporations.

Our ability to obtain in-depth objective news has decreased dramatically since the FCC began auctioning the airways.

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I have no expectations that those commissioners who don't care about the peons will suddenly find a moral center. But maybe their children or their grandchildren will. Everybody's future is further damaged when democracy, including the airways that we all own, is limited.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Barbara Brenner', written in black ink.

Barbara Brenner  
Whatcom County Council Member

BB:mb

C: Senator Maria Cantwell  
Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Dale Brandland  
Representative Rick Larsen  
Representative Kelli Linville  
Representative Doug Ericksen  
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council  
Correspondence File

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