06-121

Sandralyn Bailey

From: Martha Blakely [MBlakely@co.whatcom.wa.us]
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2006 3:48 PM
To: dtaylortateweb; Jonathan Adelstein; KJMWEB; Michael Copps; Robert McDowell
Subject: Maintaining Media Ownership Limits

Attachments: FCC letter 12.19.doc

FILED/ACCEPTED
JAN 29 2007
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

FCC letter 12.19.doc (32 KB)

Dear Commissioners: Whatcom County Councilmember Barbara Brenner is sending you the attached letter regarding maintaining media owernship limits.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration to Councilmember Brenner's letter.

Sincerely,

Martha Blakely
Whatcom County Council
(360) 676-6690

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COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038

COUNCILMEMBER
Barbara E. Brenner

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM THE DESK OF COUNCILMEMBER BARBARA BRENNER

December 19, 2006

Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th 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,

Barbara Brenner
Whatcom County Council Member

BB:mb

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

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