

1 the time to come to Seattle and have these
2 hearings. I feel a little bit out of my element
3 because I'm a broadcaster, so I'm a little pro
4 broadcaster because, you know, that's my job.

5 But I want to talk to little bit about
6 research. That was a word we heard earlier from
7 one of the panelist and what research really
8 means. I've been working in ten different
9 markets, ten different radio stations in the past
10 ten years, and we've done research at almost
11 every single one of our stations. And that
12 simply means asking the community what do you
13 want, what do you want out of your radio station.

14 And while research has gotten a bad
15 rep, I feel like here in Seattle the ability of
16 our radio group to own multiple stations has
17 given us those resources to do research. I can
18 honestly say, being involved in the budgeting
19 process for our stations, if we did not own three
20 different broadcast outlets, our research budget
21 would be cut dramatically and may not even exist.

22 So while research is certainly,

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1 certainly objectionable to some, we believe it is
2 what makes us local and what gives us our local
3 importance.

4 Thank you very much for your time.

5 (Applause.)

6 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Scott.

7 Lila Kitoeff. Lila, you have two
8 minutes.

9 MS. KITOEFF: Hi. My name is Lila
10 Kitoeff, and I'm here today as a youth media
11 educator and an independent media maker. I'm a
12 media educator with real girls because I think
13 it's essential that youth have the knowledge to
14 interpret the corporate media messages bombarding
15 them and the skills to add their diverse voices
16 to an ever more monolithic media system.

17 I became media maker myself after I
18 attended my first protest against the WTO in
19 1999. I saw for myself what happened in the
20 streets that day, and then I came home and turned
21 on the TV. And the corporate news I saw that
22 evening turned me into a media activist because

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1 every single channel was telling the same false
2 story. My voice, the voice of the people was
3 completely cut out of the equation.

4 Now I make media with Pepper Spray
5 Productions, the video arm of the Seattle
6 Independent Media Center. We work with minority
7 led community groups, like Seattle Young People's
8 Project and the Community Coalition for
9 Environmental Justice, to cover their issues and
10 events, ones that they don't see in the corporate
11 media.

12 We're grateful for public access TV
13 outlets like SCAN for providing us with our own
14 channels of distribution, but the truth is that
15 all of the airwaves ultimately belong to us, the
16 people. And we need more access --

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. KITOEFF: -- more distribution
19 networks, more diversity of media ownership.

20 Commissioners, I demand that you role
21 back the rules allowing for media consolidation
22 and make the way for more independent media.

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1 Thank you.

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Ms.
3 Kitoeff.

4 (Applause.)

5 Blair Anundson.

6 MR. ANUNDSON: Good evening. My name
7 is Blair Anundson, and I'm the program associate
8 for Washberg, the Washington public interest
9 research group. We're a nonpartisan, nonprofit,
10 citizen advocacy organization with over 35,000
11 members across the state of Washington.

12 Washberg works on a variety of public
13 interest issues, including public health,
14 consumer rights, good government and campaign
15 finance reform.

16 The public's awareness of all of these
17 issues profoundly impacted by media ownership.
18 When corporate media decides to shy away from an
19 issue that might affect advertising revenue, the
20 public discourse suffers, and the visibility of
21 our crucial public interest issues is diminished,
22 much needed debate is stifled, and our citizenry

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1 is less informed.

2 Now, in past years we in the Seattle
3 area have had access to more media outlets than
4 many other cities, but that diversity has slowly
5 eroded and will change even further if rules
6 around media ownership are relaxed.

7 Now, in preparing for this hearing, I
8 heard story after story from people who felt that
9 local news coverage and content had decreased in
10 recent years, and I've certainly experienced this
11 trend as an advocate and organizer.

12 There are fewer reporters and news
13 sources covering state and local policy issues
14 debates than in the past, and this is a direct
15 result of consolidation. The number of
16 independent voices has slowly, but drastically,
17 reduced, meaning fewer viewpoints.

18 And while corporate media has proven
19 that they always look out for their bottom line,
20 we're asking that the FCC follow up its mandate
21 and look out for the public interest.

22 Thank you.

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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Mr.
2 Anundson.

3 (Applause.)

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: David Griffith.
5 David, you have two minutes.

6 MR. GRIFFITH: Okay. Good evening.
7 My name is David Griffith from Seattle.

8 The current FCC ownership rules are
9 seriously flawed. First the rules are
10 anticompetitive. For example, in Bellingham,
11 Washington there are five commercial stations.
12 One entity could own all five stations. That's a
13 monopoly.

14 One of the panelist mentioned that her
15 company owned a third of the stations in the Tri-
16 Cities. Just two more companies could come in
17 and buy out the rest of that market. That's near
18 monopoly.

19 In order to foster competition, the
20 FCC should change its ownership rules to be more
21 restrictive, not less restrictive.

22 (Applause.)

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1 MR. GRIFFITH: Second, there are no
2 requirements for owners of local broadcast
3 stations to have any affiliation at all with the
4 local communities. Owners can reside anywhere
5 they wish. The rules need to be changed in this
6 area, too, to promote localism by requiring the
7 majority of stations in the market to be locally
8 owned.

9 Third, the low percentage of minority
10 and women owned broadcast outlets is appalling.
11 Having 90 percent of our broadcast media run by
12 free white males over 21 is not healthy for this
13 country.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. GRIFFITH: The FCC should adopt
16 rules to promote increased diversity in ownership
17 and encourage more local participation. Cross-
18 ownership erodes competition, reduces diversity
19 and restricts broader ownership in the media.
20 Let's leave cross-ownership rules alone.

21 And in summary, I would like to
22 encourage the FCC to ownership rules that promote

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1 competition, promote localism, promote diversity,
2 promote community.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Mr.
6 Griffith.

7 Todd Boyle.

8 MR. BOYLE: I've heard people speak
9 tonight about diverse voices, and my fellow
10 Americans, I am a minority of a different type,
11 and an ideological type. You see I think killing
12 people is wrong. But in the drumbeats of the
13 Iraq War I have looked at large channels, small
14 channels, radio stations, newspapers, and they
15 all said the same thing: Killing is people is
16 okay. Killing people is okay. Killing a million
17 people is okay. And so I started to get kind of
18 alienated from this.

19 So the subject tonight is media
20 consolidation. In other words, would we prefer
21 to have our news and information be managed by
22 huge corporations or by small, local tin pot

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1 dictators and entrepreneurs; however, both are
2 going to be subservient to the business elite. I
3 felt alienated from this because after a 20 year
4 career as a CPA I knew what the outcome would be.
5 Advertisers control the decision of what the
6 ideology is going to be published on the radio
7 and TV.

8 So which of these vandal and
9 philistines would you prefer, large corporations
10 or small ones? I prefer neither myself.

11 So the real question is why do we
12 allow our media and our information systems to be
13 auctioned off in the first place? For money.
14 Why do we allow the privilege and power to define
15 our world to be sold for money?

16 So I'm just going to offer a couple
17 ideas of what we move in a more radical
18 direction. First, we should handle all
19 copyrights on the all news and documentaries and
20 factual information. What's the stuff about
21 copyrighting facts? You know where did this come
22 from? They started this a couple hundred years

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1 ago. They wanted to encourage art or something
2 or maybe they had to pay -- Guetenberg had to pay
3 for his printing press. We don't have that
4 problem today.

5 Another thing we should consider is
6 prohibit commercial advertising on all television
7 broadcast stations and radio, and that would be
8 just fine. You know what would happen is all the
9 profits would go out of things and all of sudden
10 it would sort of gravitate back to what was our
11 real culture, instead of having our culture
12 defined by whoever has the most money.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. BOYLE: Another thing we should do
15 is finish this spectrum reform, tear up the
16 spectrum map, and stop profitizing all the
17 comments in to all these colored bars and --

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Mr.
19 Boyle.

20 MR. BOYLE: Okay.

21 (Applause.)

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Okay. The next

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1 ten people at this microphone over here: Bob
2 Kopela, Brandi Bratrade, Carolyn Walden, Prisis
3 Wright, Charles Northrip, David Ward, Douglas
4 Schueler, Matt Fuller, Jennifer Stock, Sidney
5 Stock. And Sidney Stock is No. 79. And at this
6 microphone the next speaker is Greg Mack.

7 Greg, you have two minutes.

8 MR. MACK: Hi. I'm a DJ at 92.5 KRP
9 in Moscow, Idaho, and I do a show called Crusty's
10 Corner. I tend to play music from artists that
11 nobody's ever heard of. Could be somebody I met
12 on the road or somebody who knew somebody that
13 throws me a CD. But Moscow is a very small
14 community, and this is a community radio station.

15 And we had something very tragic
16 happen in our community, very rare in Moscow.
17 There's only 20,000 people. But there was a
18 sniper earlier this year that, if you include
19 himself, he killed four people in one night. He
20 was up in a church tower. And none of the
21 corporate radio stations covered it because they
22 were on automation, but we very quickly got on

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1 the air live and got out as much information as
2 possible. There were S.W.A.T. teams from several
3 different counties. I was trapped in a building.
4 And if we weren't on the air, then it wouldn't
5 have been covered. People might have just walked
6 into the sniper's path. That's why it's
7 important not to consolidate.

8 Consolidation is sending us in the
9 direction of state run radio. It's fascism.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. MACK: That's the direction we're
12 moving in. We do not need to move in that
13 direction. That's the wrong direction.

14 And I also help out with another radio
15 show, which is called Eat First then Smash the
16 State, with my fellow DJ, and he is up next.

17 Thank you.

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Mr.
19 Mack.

20 Mike Bowersox.

21 MR. BOWERSOX: I'm Mike Bowersox. I'm
22 a DJ political talk show host on 92.5 FM in

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1 Moscow, Idaho, I traveled a long ways to come
2 here and took my time off. And like many other
3 people here, I am encouraging the FCC not to pass
4 these regulations for further consolidation.

5 I think you should look at another act
6 of Congress called the Sherman Antitrust Act.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. BOWERSOX: Try of look that up.
9 Because increasingly in our country even with
10 explosion of all these channels since I grew up -
11 - a lot of this crap, this consolidation, these
12 corporations are about profit rather than serving
13 the communities that they are in. Maybe they
14 hold a little benefit here or there, but they do
15 not serve their communities, especially when the
16 they're consolidated.

17 One example is Clear Channel which
18 decided the Dixie Chicks -- I don't really like
19 them that much -- because they insulted George
20 Bush, they wouldn't be played anymore and
21 encouraged people to burn their records, which I
22 would say is kind antidemocratic.

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1 And these regulations are
2 antidemocratic, and if anything, the FCC should
3 be opening up more space to low power FM stations
4 like ours and on reservations and in communities
5 of color, rather than allowing giant corporations
6 to consolidate and simply make profits at the
7 expense of ordinary citizens.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Mike.

11 Adam Assenberg. Bob Kopela.

12 Are you Adam?

13 MR. ASSENBERG: Yeah.

14 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Adam, you have two
15 minutes.

16 MR. ASSENBERG: My name is Adam
17 Assenberg. I'm in from Colfax, Washington. I am
18 proud to be a disc jockey at KRFP Radio in
19 Moscow. I also run a podcast on the internet at
20 marijuanafactorfiction.com.

21 I think it's deplorable that media
22 corporations are taking over the airwaves because

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1 stories like mine would never have gone out after
2 the federal government and Chritine Gregoire
3 threw me and my family out onto the street when a
4 doctor in this state under I-692 voted to have
5 people like me protected.

6 Media needs to go ahead and have
7 stories like mine told. Stories like these other
8 people out here, they need to be told. People
9 need to be heard. Corporate radio does not take
10 into consideration the small people like myself.
11 Channel 13 would never have aired my story,
12 neither would some of these other big
13 corporations.

14 Small radio stations, like the one I'm
15 very proud to be associated with, are listening
16 to my story, getting the word out to people.
17 Other people's stories are getting heard.
18 There's a family in California that's contacted
19 me that was thrown out onto the street also for
20 the same reason under the Proposition 215.

21 Media -- mainstream media is not
22 covering this. It needs to be heard. Please do

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1 not change the rules. Keep them the way they are
2 so small people, like myself, can be heard.

3 I thank you.

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Mr.
5 Assenberg.

6 Bob Kopela. Bob Kopela.

7 MR. KOPELA: Hi, I'm Bob Kopela,
8 private citizen. There's only about 2 or 3
9 hundred million of us, but we seem to be having a
10 hard time getting a clear message from the
11 popular media that gives us the information to
12 make really informed decisions, not on human
13 interest stories, but on the big stories.

14 I came here tonight to see democracy
15 in action. I'm not sure that it's very
16 encouraging right at the moment. I see that I
17 have elected officials who really don't represent
18 my needs as a voting citizen as I think they
19 ought to be represented.

20 I see them appointing staffs,
21 departments, agencies, commissions, such as the
22 FCC, that aren't making decisions that uphold

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1 their charter or my interests and by and large
2 are being either slyly or quietly finessed
3 through and ramrodded through perhaps to get
4 something done in the last 14 months of this
5 administration.

6 So why am I here tonight? I'm not
7 saying anything you guys haven't heard before. I
8 am here to try to swell the ranks to entice the
9 media to be here and cover this.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. KOPELA: What's really important
12 for me to tonight is besides trying to be an
13 activist for media reform, it's really to be an
14 activist also for governmental reform, to reform
15 finances for voting, to finances for elections
16 because that's the way along with media reform
17 that we're going to get away from stacked
18 government.

19 Thank you very much.

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Mr.
21 Kopela.

22 Brandi Bradford. Carolyn Walden.

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1 Are you Brandi? Are you Carolyn?

2 MS. WALDEN: I'm Carolyn.

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Carolyn Walden.

4 You have two minutes, Carolyn.

5 MS. WALDEN: Thank you.

6 I've been a local resident for many
7 decades. Big media corporations do not speak
8 for or to me or my city. I want to be sure that
9 the voices that purport to be from here are from
10 here. I want a spectrum of voices from here, both
11 those from the current scene and those with the
12 wisdom of institutional memory.

13 When we are deciding where we are
14 going as a nation, as a community, I want to hear
15 from and be challenged by those who know where we
16 came from and how we got here and how this issue
17 or news will affect us, just as I want people
18 from other places to hear and tell their own
19 story and their own views, not what some
20 corporation says it is.

21 Thank you.

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, Ms.

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1 Walden.

2 Prisis Wright.

3 MS. WRIGHT: We who cohabit the
4 boardrooms of America, like any status entitled
5 group with a majority of male members, have come
6 to realize that any no to an executive order, no
7 matter how many times it is thoughtfully stated
8 and restated by many millions of Americans
9 actually means yes, which can then be followed by
10 fruitful acts of Congress.

11 We of the "few" world order, like Dr.
12 Gerbel before us, welcome the present magic
13 moment that our corporate embedded national
14 government is about to provide us. We propose
15 that the net be neutered and that spam be the
16 main course offered on this drop-dead menu.

17 We propose that the holdings of the
18 so-called "alternative media" be liquidated in
19 summary high fashion. We propose that their
20 operators and supporters be confined to the
21 designer railcars accessorized with shackles,
22 whips, and guillotines we have prepared for their

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1 use at our pleasure.

2 We propose that all regulation of
3 broadcasting be taken completely out of the
4 feeble hand of local government and put into the
5 harden, hidden hand of the market giving high-
6 fives to the hyperextended hired hands that now
7 compromise our feudal government located in what
8 is appropriately now called our nation's capital.

9 We've propose that every city in this
10 nation become a media concentration camp with
11 captive audiences being daily subjected to this
12 serialized stool and unusual punishment of our
13 craft media's reprogramming of America's hearts
14 and minds.

15 So, Dear FCC Commissioners, nearly one
16 year later, we of the "few" world order bid you
17 again in hearty holiday celebration of our
18 imminent destruction of America's democracy.
19 Seasons greetings to all and to all a good night.

20 (Applause.)

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Charles Northrip.

22 Charles, you have two minutes.

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1 MR. NORTHROP: I've spent almost all
2 of my career in commercial and public
3 broadcasting, but the last eight years I've spent
4 as a contractor for U.S. Agency for International
5 Development, assisting private media in Croatia,
6 Bosnia, and Herzegovina.

7 I helped new private broadcasters and
8 print operations improve their journalism,
9 develop good business practices, develop
10 grassroots advocacy through association, create
11 fair and independent regulation. They did not
12 have diverse media voices. The government or
13 political parties owned and ran it all.

14 The independent private media we
15 helped develop are now providing the objective
16 and diverse information needed to grow new
17 fledgling democracies, and they're turning the
18 government systems that remain into more
19 competitive and objective sources as well.

20 What a disappointment to return and
21 see what our pioneer media regulator has already
22 done and is contemplating to make worse. What a

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1 poor and hypocritical example to set for the rest
2 of the world.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. NORTHRIP: Our country does not
5 need more media consolidation. We need more
6 diversity. Not false diversity, more
7 consolidated outlets all racing to a bloated
8 bottom line. That's not diversity. We need a
9 greater variety of owners, each with a distinct
10 public interest mandate.

11 You, as our guardians of the public
12 interest, should be encouraging new, innovative
13 routes to media ownership for women and
14 minorities, including ways to lower the economic
15 barriers to that sort of ownership. We're
16 waiting and hoping you will not approve more
17 consolidation, but will move in more inclusive
18 directions. And we'll be here to stand up and
19 cheer if you do.

20 (Applause.)

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: David Ward.

22 David, before you start, I'd like to

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1 call the next ten names, 80 through 89. That's
2 Shirley Morrison, Terry Sullivan, John Brown,
3 Jason Tyler, James Goodman, George Robertson,
4 Herbert Farber, Kathleen Myers, Brian Johnson,
5 and Roger Fulton who is No. 89.

6 David Ward, you're No. 75. You have
7 two minutes.

8 MR. WARD: Actually there was someone
9 who didn't quite make it down here who was called
10 a couple times ago, so I'd like her to go first
11 and then I'll follow her, if that's okay.

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Okay.

13 MS. BRADFORD: Okay. About a year ago
14 fresh out of environmental journalism school, a
15 friend and I saw holes in local news coverage of
16 environmental and social justice issues. We saw
17 a great opportunity to start a new small
18 business, Seattledirt.com, a new online news
19 magazine.

20 Breaking into the market is tricky,
21 but with the support of other local community
22 media we're developing into an energetic,

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1 youthful news source. While we are an online
2 publication, we've come to realize that the
3 internet is not a substitute for other media, but
4 an important part of a diverse media community.
5 Publications like mine cannot survive if media
6 consolidation continues.

7 As a young woman media owner, I call
8 on you, the FCC, to fulfill your mandate to
9 protect public interest. Do not relax media
10 ownership rules. In fact, I challenge you to
11 strengthen them.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

15 Douglas Schueler. David Ward.

16 MR. WARD: Hello. My name is Rupert
17 Moredough. Most people actually know me as
18 Rupert Murdoch, but it's actually Moredough
19 because I have more money than anyone would ever
20 know what to do with. But I would like the FCC
21 to help me consolidate media so that I can make
22 even more money.

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1 I think it's important to consolidate
2 media so that I can better manipulate how people
3 see the world. I think we have way too much
4 democracy already. I mean, considering that
5 three million people last time already
6 contributed their comments to the FCC and almost
7 none of them wanted media consolidation. I think
8 it's definitely obvious that we have way too much
9 democracy.

10 What are they doing? Don't they know
11 that democracy is all about the corporations and
12 not for people? Just ask the Republican FCC
13 members who want to push through the media
14 consolidation.

15 Isn't that that true, Chairman Martin
16 and Commissioner McDowell? I guess we can't talk
17 to Commissioner Tate because she's not here
18 today, which is unfortunate.

19 But a while back we got rid of the
20 Fairness Doctrine. I think that's not nearly
21 enough. I think we need an Unfairness Doctrine,
22 which is what media consolidation is.

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