

Dear Members of the FCC,

Please add my email voice to the millions of civic-minded Americans begging you to do your job holding the line against media consolidation.

My beautiful, hardworking family brought me up believing I have a civic responsibility to keep myself informed so I can participate wisely in democratic processes, to do my part to maintain the wellbeing of the rights and freedoms we hold so precious.

I learned that to stay informed I need access to a representative variety of credible news sources.

Because I'm a single working mother, and have to take in my news while driving or cleaning or cooking, I became a devoted radio gal. Three small local stations are very dear to me, one of which I pick up by winding a wire around my radio antenna next to metal shelving. That's how important it is to me to hear them. The voices that bring me world and local events on these stations are like clear springwater to me. I need this every day. I am trying to do my best to be a responsible citizen.

Do not endanger my news sources!

Do not permit this newest legislation to be railroaded through. As you are public servants, stand up for the sacred right of the public to have access to the diversity of voices we need in order to be an informed citizenry.

To do otherwise, having witnessed the overwhelming outcry from the American public, will be to blatantly defy the will of the people. To author or initiate or sanction this kind of legislation will be to plant yourselves squarely on the wrong side of history, against public opinion and against the vision and express wishes of the authors of our constitution.

I felt honored to show up for the Hearing in Seattle. Friday afternoons and evenings are busy office hours for me, a time when I usually bring in a significant chunk of my weekly earnings. I gave this up to be part of the public process; I sat with you in our Town Hall from 4 till midnight. I was #151 of 289 people who signed up for their 2 minutes to speak to the FCC panel. I had a little speech prepared, but in the end I sang to you. You and I looked each other in the eye. You looked quite tired at that point, but I know heard me. I asked you to listen to us. I wondered if, as committee members, you were actually free to hear us, the American people, and if you could have the courage to stand up for us as we asked.

Please show us that you dare to be truly great public servants, truly serving the public. Please protect our rights to diverse news sources. Please stop this legislation.

with respect and thanks, Karen Stocker