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**Hintz & Balvin Communications**

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**SUNSHINE PERIOD**

Kevin Martin  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.

06-121

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to your proposal allowing greater consolidation of media outlets to a few powerful owners. You and your fellow FCC Commissioners have toured the country to hear the voices of the people which have almost unanimously endorsed the preservation of existing rules. The reason is simple. For a democracy to thrive we need to protect the opportunity for the free expression of diverse views. With a few powerful media owners controlling both print and broadcast outlets, often in the same city, they can control what is covered or written about such as your hearings which often were not reported.

I watched CSPAN and your performance before the Senate. To testify that consolidation is needed to protect the profitability of media companies is ludicrous. Yes, these companies for whom I and my family have worked, may not be making as much profit as in previous years before cable and the Internet. But they are still among America's most profitable.

Instead of removing some of the licensing requirements now operative, I advocate more. The airwaves belong to we the people. Licenses should be awarded on the basis of how well companies serve the public. I saw first-hand how RKO in Los Angeles in the 1970's increased its public service programming when threatened with the loss of its license. It became a better station, not just one making money off old movie reruns.

Please exercise your responsibility to protect our public airways and media outlets by enforcing the existing licensing requirements and rules governing media ownership.

Most Sincerely,

*Christle Balvin*  
Christle Balvin

Cc: Senators Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer and Congressmen David Dreir, Adam Schiff

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