

The U.S. public owns the airwaves, and we should be entitled to reasonable rent or fees for the use of those airwaves, beyond the mere license fees. Just as a business owner pays rent for use of a building as well as a business license fee, we should assess reasonable fees that enable us to share in the billions of dollars of income generated by our airwaves property. Candidates for public office have become so burdened with the cost of advertising on radio and television that it has in effect corrupted the entire political system. Not only must candidates raise funds continuously, limiting the time spent in governing, but they are boring the public to death by saturating the airwaves during campaign season, sometimes with false or misleading ads that favor wealthy corporations rather than consumers. The owner of a commercial building sometimes contracts for a portion of the revenue of businesses that use the building (such as a shopping mall). The FCC has the power to assess such fees (these are not TAXES, but FEES), and I hope you will do so immediately. We could use the income to reduce the deficit or to provide federal funds for candidates (perhaps for both state and federal candidates) who will agree to certain spending limits. Such an act on your part might make it possible for lower income citizens to participate in television and radio viewing, instead of having to give up their Medicare benefits to enrich the wealthiest Americans.

Sincerely,

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