

Dear FCC Commissioners,

I'd like to comment on the proposal to lift the ban on owning a radio station and newspaper in any or all markets. I do not have empirical evidence or data from research studies. I am citizen who has listened to the radio and is concerned about what I hear. I present my experiences as the reasons against further consolidation of the media. Since 1997, radio has progressively become less local. Programming in prime time hours between 6AM to 10AM and 3PM to 7PM on most urban stations is done through syndication. Today something as simple as hearing the correct time cannot be done on a syndicated show because it is impossible for a syndicated host to give the correct time in the various cities that the broadcast is heard. So the host says it's 21 minutes after the hour. I wonder what hour? If I were blind listening to radio I would never know what time it is.

The result of media deregulation has had an adverse effect on African Americans and African American media ownership. African American media ownership has declined. The majority of radio stations playing music targeted for African Americans are not owned by African Americans. The policies of the Nixon administration designed to increase media ownership for African Americans were wiped out in the Reagan years. Although the ethnic background of an owner should not make a difference the reality is that under the corporate model of radio it does. Why because the bottom line is "what makes money for the owner." Public affairs, news and public service announcements are removed from programming because these program formats are not revenue generators and were deregulated in the 80's. Even with the relaxed programming requirements the broadcasting industry has failed at being self-regulators toward the public interest. The market and broadcasters have failed at presenting programming that would be beneficial to the communities they serve. It is as if the broadcasters give nothing in return for the "Free Use" of the airwaves. And the sad part is that deregulation has resulted more in the "shutting off" of voices and owners as opposed to bring more voices to the airwaves.

Based on the previous record of what broadcasters have already done since deregulation. I do not feel that Americans will be presented with a better media product through further deregulation. There should be some benefit to the public and that benefit should be in the product itself. The broadcasting industry needs competition within it. The relaxation of rules will not bring about more competition. With the relaxation of the rules, I see more of the same homogenized content, loss of jobs, and less localism. Newspapers should focus on the marvelous creation called the Internet to "supplement" and help sustain their industry. We need more voices not less voices. The relaxation of the media ownership rule would bring more media concentration. White males now own the majority of 13,000+ radio stations.

Thank you

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