



505 Fifth Avenue, Ste. 901  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
(515) 243-3576

## **Save democracy from FCC**

by R. Ben Stone, ACLU-IA Executive Director  
5/27/2003

UNLESS SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY HAPPENS, NEXT MONDAY, JUNE 2ND WILL LIKELY BECOME KNOWN (AMONG INFORMED PERSONS ON BOTH THE LEFT AND RIGHT) AS THE DAY DEMOCRACY FINALLY DIED IN AMERICA.

IF THAT SOUNDS DRAMATIC, IT IS INTENDED TO BE. THIS IS A DRAMATIC MOMENT AND CALLS FOR DRAMATIC ACTION.

IF YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR RIGHT TO HEAR AND SEE THE EXPRESSION OF DIVERSE VIEWS IN A DEMOCRACY, THEN READ ON ---

AND TAKE ACTION WITHIN THE NEXT 48 HOURS -- the deadline for submission of statements to the FCC is end of business on Friday, May 30th.

WHAT TO DO: READ THE STUFF BELOW, THEN EMAIL, CALL OR FAX THE FCC IMMEDIATELY TO ASK THAT THEY POSTPONE THE JUNE 2ND VOTE AND STOP THE DRIVE TO REMOVE RULES AGAINST MEDIA MONOPOLIES. (SEE LINKS AT BOTTOM), OR USE MEDIA REFORM.NET LINK IMMEDIATELY BELOW HERE..

Then consider contacting your representative in Congress also--but first send your note to the FCC!

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FOR THE LATEST NEWS REGARDING THE FCC VOTE, GO HERE: Learn, [CLICK HERE-->](http://www.mediareform.net/)

AND HERE IS AN ACTION ALERT FROM THE ACLU:

Support Diversity and Openness in our Nation's Media  
May [27], 2003

On June 2, the Federal Communications Commission is expected to issue a rule change that would relax media ownership regulations and permit greater corporate concentration and cross-ownership of the mass media. The details of the rule have not been made public, but reports indicate that it will permit huge media conglomerates to own most or all of the media outlets in any given market.

Allowing greater concentration and cross-ownership of media may have a profound impact on Americans' access to a wide range of news, information, programming and "political commentary." To have a healthy democratic dialogue and participation on major issues, it is important that we have access to a diversity of opinions and information, not a handful of options. Altering media ownership rules could seriously affect vigorous public debate and the marketplace of ideas.

The Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on media ownership, but proposed no actual rule upon which the public could comment. The public and Congress therefore have had no opportunity to comment on specific changes and their possible effects on diversity. Given that this rule could seriously impact on the information sources of so many people, the FCC should ask for and consider public comments on the proposed rule.

Take Action! Urge the Commission to open the Rule-making process to the public and Congress!

Rulemaking of this significance should be open to public comment. Relaxation of the media concentration rules could have enormous consequences for the marketplace of ideas that is so vital to our nation. The public interest requires that any proposed changes to the rules be made in the open, with full and fair opportunity for all interested parties to comment.

Diversity of opinion is critical to a strong, healthy democracy. To stay democratic and free, we need to ensure diversity of opinion and the free exchange of ideas. It is imperative that there be the widest possible comment on any proposed rule so the Commission may fairly and impartially evaluate whether it will promote or hinder such diversity.

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May 16, 2003  
The FCC's Big Grab

Making Media Monopoly Part of the Constitution

By ROBERT W. McCHESNEY

<http://www.counterpunch.org/mcchesney05162003.html>

[this is probably the best overview of the issue. a very good history of what's going on.]

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Published on Monday, May 12, 2003 by the San Francisco Chronicle

FCC Close to Easing Media Caps Giant firms want to own more outlets  
by Dan Fost

<http://www.commondreams.org/headlines03/0512-01.htm>

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comment | Posted May 15, 2003

FCC: Public Be Damned

by John Nichols & Robert W. McChesney

<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20030602&s=nichols>

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A Congressional Gift to Media Biz  
By Jeffrey Chester, AlterNet  
May 15, 2003

<http://www.alternet.org/story.html?StoryID=15919>

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Unlikely Alliances Forged in Fight Over Media Rules

By Frank Ahrens  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Tuesday, May 20, 2003; Page E01

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A12773-2003May19?language=printer>

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Minority House groups press FCC on ownership

(From The Wall Street Journal)  
By Mark Wigfield and Eduardo Porter  
5-22-03

<http://www.mediareform.net/news.php?id=175>

[Black, Asian-American and Hispanic Caucuses want delay in FCC vote; while GOP senators and representatives push legislation blocking FCC from changing rules].

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The Great Media Gulp  
By WILLIAM SAFIRE

WASHINGTON  
5-22-2003

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/22/opinion/22SAFI.html>  
[Why conservatives should be opposed to the FCC rules]

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MAY 22, 2003  
Diverse Group Opposes Ownership Reform  
Critics Get Louder as FCC Vote Nears

By David Ho, Associated Press Writer  
[http://www.editorandpublisher.com/editorandpublisher/headlines/article\\_display.jsp?vnu\\_content\\_id=1893382](http://www.editorandpublisher.com/editorandpublisher/headlines/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1893382)

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PLEASE CONTACT THE FCC  
AND (EVENTUALLY) YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATORS IN CONGRESS  
ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING!!!

PLEASE TELL ALL FIVE FCC COMMISSIONERS TO DELAY THE JUNE 2ND VOTE  
TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR PUBLIC INPUT AND DEBATE AND SAY THAT YOU  
OPPOSE ANY PROPOSAL TO LOOSEN THE RULES ON MEDIA CONCENTRATION  
AND OWNERSHIP.

HURRY--THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE FCC IS FRIDAY, MAY 30TH.

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How to Contact the FCC  
To Contact the Commissioners via E-mail

Chairman Michael K. Powell: [mpowell@fcc.gov](mailto:mpowell@fcc.gov)  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy: [kabernat@fcc.gov](mailto:kabernat@fcc.gov)  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps: [mcopps@fcc.gov](mailto:mcopps@fcc.gov)  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin: [kjmweb@fcc.gov](mailto:kjmweb@fcc.gov)

Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein: [jadelste@fcc.gov](mailto:jadelste@fcc.gov)

#### To Obtain Information via E-mail

General information, inquiries & complaints: [fccinfo@fcc.gov](mailto:fccinfo@fcc.gov)

Freedom of Information Act requests: [FOIA@fcc.gov](mailto:FOIA@fcc.gov)

Comments on FCC Internet services: [webmaster@fcc.gov](mailto:webmaster@fcc.gov)

Elections & political candidate matters: [campaignlaw@fcc.gov](mailto:campaignlaw@fcc.gov)

#### To Obtain Information via Telephone

1-888-225-5322 (1-888-CALL FCC) Voice: toll-free

1-888-835-5322 (1-888-TELL FCC) TTY: toll-free

(202) 418-2555 TTY: toll

(202) 418-0710 FAX

(202) 418-2830 FAX on Demand

(202) 418-1440 Elections & political candidate matters

FCC Phone Directory

United States Postal Service First-Class Mail, Express Mail & Priority Mail

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554