

October 31, 2002

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the forty undersigned groups representing national and local consumer, civil rights, and media advocacy organizations nationwide, we urge the Commission to consider the serious and long lasting implications of the proposals now before the Commission in the 2002 Biennial Review of Broadcast Ownership Rules in a series of hearings around the country.

Pencil and paper proceedings in Washington simply cannot do justice to the issues raised in these proceedings that are so vital to our democracy. Moreover, as evidenced by the attached review, recent surveys indicate that proposals to loosen media ownership rules, relax public interest standards and abandon open access requirements for advanced telecommunications networks are not supported by public opinion. They express concern about increasingly concentrated media and strong support for greater diversity and local content in media programming.

By the FCC's own admission, this rulemaking "marks the beginning of the most comprehensive look at media ownership regulation ever undertaken by the FCC." Field hearings would be much more accessible to average citizens and would enable the Commission to hear from those individuals whose access to the media are most directly affected by these decisions.

Sincerely yours,

Alliance for Community Media	Consumers Union
Arizona Consumers Council	Deep Dish Television
Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers	Democratic Processes Center (AZ)
California PIRG	Empire State Consumer Association (NY)
Center for Digital Democracy	Florida Consumer Action Network
Center for Public Representation (WI)	Florida PIRG
Citizen Action/Illinois	Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication,
Colorado PIRG	Harlem Consumer Education Council
Columbia Consumer Education Council (SC)	Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Consumer Action (CA)	Massachusetts Consumers Coalition
Consumer Assistance Council (MA)	Media Alliance
Consumer Federation of America	Media Tank
Consumer World (MA)	Michigan Consumer Federation

Montana PIRG
National Lawyers Guild, Center on
Democratic Communications
New Jersey Citizen Action
North Carolina PIRG
Ohio PIRG
Oregon PIRG
Prometheus Radio Project
Texas Consumer Association
The Consumers' Voice (IL)

The Praxis Project
U.S. PIRG
Utility Consumer Action Network (CA)
Vermont PIRG
Washington PIRG
Wisconsin Consumers League
Wisconsin PIRG
Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press

Cc: The Honorable Kathleen Abernathy
The Honorable Michael Copps
The Honorable Kevin Martin
The Honorable Ernest Hollings
The Honorable John McCain
The Honorable W. J. Tauzin
The Honorable John Dingell