

For Immediate Release

**The Public's Law Firm at the FCC, Media Access Project, Reacts to
FCC's June 2, 2003 Media Ownership Decision**



Media Access Project staff reacted to the Commission's decision today. Andrew Jay Schwartzman, President & CEO stated:

“Democracy took a hit today. The good news is that millions of Americans are finally coming to realize the importance of maintaining media diversity.

“The bad news is that the FCC has acted with disdainful regard for hundreds of thousands of Americans who don't want more media concentration. The good news is those hundreds of thousands of Americans have learned that FCC Chairman Michael Powell doesn't care about what they think, and they will be angry.”

Cheryl A. Leanza, Deputy Director added:

“The FCC's action today means that Americans will see more of the worst the media has to offer, and less of the best.”

“While Michael Powell will justify his decision today in economic terms, he appears oblivious that democracy cannot be measured in dollars and cents.”

Harold Feld, Associate director stated:

“While in the 1980s, we believed “greed is good,” after Enron we know that greed without limit is dangerous. Unfortunately, we don't expect large media conglomerates to be happy with the windfall they received today, we fully expect them to challenge the rules in court to remove the remaining shreds of protection.”

“Sometimes a situation must become very bad before the conditions are right for change. We can only hope that these are one of last moments when the American people and Congress will stand by and watch while basic protections are stripped away.”

30-30-30

For further comment, contact:

Andrew Jay Schwartzman, President & CEO, 202-454-5681

Cheryl A. Leanza, Deputy Director, 202-454-5683

Harold Feld, Associate Director, 202-454-5684

Media Access Project is a thirty-year-old non-profit, public interest law firm which promotes the public's First Amendment right to hear and be heard on the electronic media of today and tomorrow.