

**Consumers Union \* Center for Digital Democracy \* Consumer Federation of America \*  
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights \* Media Access Project \* National Asian Pacific America  
Legal Consortium \* National Association for the Advancement of Colored People \* National  
Congress of American Indians \* National Council of La Raza \* National Urban League**

June 4, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Media Ownership Rules

Dear Chairman Powell:

We urge you to heed the advice of Senators Hollings, DeWine, and Kohl, and initiate a much more thorough analysis of how media ownership structures influence programming decisions and the opportunity for new programmers to make news, information, and creative material available to the public. Before the Commission acts to alter or eliminate any media ownership rules, it should engage in a thorough analysis of the anti-competitive and other dangerous effects of contraction in the number of media owners and share that information publicly.

Entertainment variety and the number of channels available to consumers are not what this debate is about. Instead, these Senators have appropriately drawn attention to concentration in media ownership, consolidation of transmission capacity, and the way in which equity stakes in programming undercut diversity of thought and speech undermine the creation and distribution of independent news, and limit the range of culturally important entertainment products.

We believe that if you engage in a more careful, rigorous analysis, it will be clear that to promote these Senators' and our goal of diversity of ownership, the Commission must maintain and reinvigorate the ownership rules before it.

Respectfully,

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