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For Immediate Release



MAP Expresses Satisfaction at FCC's Adoption of Cable Ownership Rules

Andrew Jay Schwartzman, President and CEO of Media Access Project, issued the following statement concerning today's FCC decision to impose a 30% ownership cap on national cable ownership:

"We've been waiting a long time for these rules. The large cable companies already exercise excessive market power, which has resulted in high prices, lousy customer service and lots of copy cat programming. Making sure they can't grow even bigger will enable competitors to get off the ground."

"The FCC acted pursuant to Section 613(f) of the 1992 Cable Act, which directs the FCC "to prescribe rules and regulations establishing reasonable limits on the number of cable subscribers a person is authorized to reach."

"There is solid legal and factual support for the 30% cap the FCC adopted today, and we are confident that this rule will pass muster with the courts. While a federal court rejected the FCC's last effort to impose a cable cap, the data submitted by MAP and other citizens' groups provides much stronger grounds for approval this time around."

"The cable companies continue to argue that the emergence of competition makes these rules unnecessary. However, Congress specifically directed the FCC to adopt a limit on cable because of, not in spite of, emerging competition. Its intention was to make sure that there is a truly competitive environment for new entrants. It is especially significant that just a few weeks ago the FCC unanimously adopted a report which concluded that cable rates have not been restrained by emerging competitors."

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Media Access Project (MAP) is a non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the public's First Amendment right to access a diverse marketplace of ideas in the electronic mass media of today and tomorrow. For over 35 years, MAP has promoted the public interest before the FCC and the Courts, advocating for an open and diverse media that protects the free flow of information, promotes universal and equitable access, and encourages vibrant public discourse on critical issues facing our society. For more information please visit our website at www.mediaaccess.org.