

*For Immediate Release*

**June 21, 2006**



Andrew Jay Schwartzman, President and CEO of the Media Access Project, issued the following statement in reaction to today's FCC vote starting a new review of broadcast ownership rules:

The last time, the FCC started with a presumption that its goals was to deregulate. This time, we have a court decision that tells the FCC to take its thumb off the scale. If the Commission follows that directive, I'm sure that it will leave the existing rules in place.

Over the air broadcasting and daily newspapers are, by far, the most powerful forces shaping public opinion on local and national issues. It is as simple as this: diversity in media ownership is good for democratic self-governance.

We are especially disappointed that Chairman Martin continues to ignore public and Congressional requests that he complete the FCC's long delayed localism inquiry. Broadcasters can best serve the public by addressing local needs. We are certain that the results of a serious study of broadcasters' performance will support our position that media consolidation is incompatible with effective public service.

Media Access Project is a public interest law firm which served as counsel to the Philadelphia-based Prometheus Radio Project in its successful appeal of the FCC's June, 2003 media ownership decision.

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