



**For Immediate Release
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Media Access Project Senior Vice President Harold Feld had the following statement in reaction to the Video Competition NOI.

"It is unfortunate that the Commission has initiated another annual report without finishing last year's business. While the Commission is to be applauded for trying to improve its video competition report, it means nothing if the Commission refuses to act on the information it collects. The Commission has yet to resolve the question rose by last year's report -- whether cable penetration has met the so called 70/70 test of Section 612(g). This statute requires the FCC to promote diversity of views in cable programming when 70% of Americans have access to cable systems with more than 36 activated channels, and 70% or more of those with access subscribe to such cable systems.

"In approving the Adelphia transaction last July, every Commissioner recognized that the cable market has grown increasingly concentrated, and that independent programming has suffered. Republicans and Democrats alike acknowledged concerns about independent sports channels, independent children's programming, and independent minority programming. A finding on the 70/70 test would give the Commission power to address these problems.

"Similarly, MAP also urges the Commission to quickly resolve the pending cable ownership matter -- in limbo now for more than five years -- and to move quickly on the proceedings to address problems with leased access and program carriage complaint process promised in the Adelphia transaction.

Finally, MAP echoes and applauds Commissioner Copp's additional comments on improving the FCC's data collection process. While the FCC has taken steps to improve, much more needs to be done."

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