

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1859

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to reduce restrictions on media ownership, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 1997

Mr. STEARNS (for himself, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. OXLEY, and Mr. UPTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to reduce restrictions on media ownership, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Local Television Com-  
5       petition and Diversity Act of 1997”.

6       **SEC. 2. REVISION OF DUOPOLY RULES.**

7       Part I of title III of the Communications Act of 1934  
8       (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
9       the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 337. REVISION OF DUOPOLY RULES.**

2       “(a) **LIMITATION ON DUOPOLY RULES.**—The Com-  
3 mission shall not prohibit a person or entity directly from  
4 owning, operating, or controlling or having a cognizable  
5 interest in, two television stations within the same tele-  
6 vision market if at least one of such stations is a UHF  
7 television station, unless the Commission determines that  
8 permitting such ownership, operation, or control will sig-  
9 nificantly harm competition or will significantly harm the  
10 preservation of a diversity of media voices in the local tele-  
11 vision market.

12       “(b) **EXCEPTION.**—The Commission, in unusual and  
13 compelling circumstances, may permit a person or entity  
14 to directly or indirectly own, operate, or control or have  
15 a cognizable interest in, two VHF television stations with-  
16 in the same television market, if the applicant dem-  
17 onstrates to the satisfaction of the Commission that per-  
18 mitting such ownership, operation, or control will not sig-  
19 nificantly harm competition and will not significantly  
20 harm the preservation of a diversity of media voices in  
21 the local television market.”.

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