

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 212

To express the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Communications Commission should not revise its media ownership rules without more extensive review and comment by the public.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Ohio) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Communications Commission should not revise its media ownership rules without more extensive review and comment by the public.

Whereas Federal Communications Commission (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as “the FCC”) Chairman Michael Powell has announced that on June 2, 2003, the FCC will vote to revise current media ownership regulations as part of its Biennial Regulatory Review;

Whereas the changes to media ownership rules under consideration will affect Newspaper-Broadcast Concentration, National TV Concentration, TV Duopoly Protection, Multiple-Network Concentration, Radio-TV Concentration, and Local Radio Concentration;

Whereas the FCC has held one official hearing on this matter in Richmond, Virginia, on February 27, 2003;

Whereas FCC Chairman Powell has announced that the Commission will vote on a final rule revising media ownership regulations without first allowing for a public review and comment period on any proposed changes, in apparent violation of the Administration Procedure Act;

Whereas changes to these rules will impact every person's access to diverse sources information; and

Whereas access to diverse sources of information is necessary to maintain the informed citizenry needed for a functioning democracy: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the FCC should not weaken any current
4 media ownership rules that protect people's access to
5 diverse sources of information;

6 (2) the FCC should examine, and better inform
7 the general public regarding, the consequences of
8 weakening current media ownership rules, in par-
9 ticular the increased level of media consolidation and
10 concentration that will likely occur; and

11 (3) the FCC should allow for extensive public
12 review and comment on any proposed changes to
13 current media ownership rules before issuing a final
14 rule.

