



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**December 4, 2002**

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## **COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS WELCOMES FIRST HEARING ON MEDIA CONCENTRATION**

Commissioner Michael J. Copps reacted today to the FCC's decision to hold the first media concentration public hearing: "I have been calling for hearings for several months, and I welcome the FCC's decision to hold this hearing. I don't believe there is any substitute for getting out and talking with America about this critical decision. We must not rush to judgment on whether to scrap our media concentration protections. A hearing in Richmond will help us move in the right direction."

Commissioner Copps continued, "This is a good step forward. But I remain convinced we need to have other hearings in diverse venues to flesh out the record needed for this single most important decision the Commission will make next year. That means listening not just to one community, but giving mid-western and west coast Americans, for example, access to the FCC. I understand budget constraints but on an issue of this profound importance, we just have to find a way to hear from more folks outside the Capital Beltway. I am looking for that way and I am determined to find it."

At issue is the FCC's review of rules that seek to protect localism, independence, and diversity in the media. These rules, among other things, currently limit a single corporation from dominating local TV markets; from merging a community's TV stations, radio stations, and newspaper; from merging two of the major TV networks; and from controlling more than 35% of all TV households in the nation.

"At stake in this proceeding are our core values of localism, diversity, competition, and maintaining the multiplicity of voices and choices that undergird our marketplace of ideas and that sustain American democracy," Copps continued. "With such important values at stake, we ought to give Americans access to our decision making process, we ought to rely on granular evidence and engage in studied analysis."

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