



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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FCC COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN DISSENTS FROM MEDIA OWNERSHIP DECISION

Washington – Commissioner Adelstein issued a 39-page dissent today to the Commission’s June 2nd media ownership decision.

Adelstein said “Public outrage from all sides of the political spectrum continues to mount against the FCC’s decision to allow further media concentration. We’ve now heard from nearly 2 million people, almost all opposed to the decision, an unprecedented outpouring of public concern. Yet we march ahead with our new rules. I’m disappointed my colleagues have refused to suspend the effective date of the new rules, despite the overwhelming public reaction and ongoing Congressional deliberations to overturn the decision. Now is the time for the FCC to reconsider the rule changes on its own in recognition that it acted against the public interest.

Today, I released an extensive dissent, outlining my substantive concerns with the decision and explaining that my vote, along with the concerns of millions of our citizens, is based on more than hyperbole and irrational fear. In gutting longstanding media ownership consumer protections, the FCC took no steps to assure that any benefits will flow to the public from allowing the media to get more concentrated. There is no assurance whatsoever that broadcasting’s public interest focus will be preserved.

When used to serve the public who own the airwaves, our broadcast media can uplift and edify our society, and invigorate our democracy. But free use of the public airwaves only benefits the public to the extent that those who control it are committed to enriching society and not just themselves. If reduced to mere flickering lights or soundwaves solely designed to attract advertisers, our broadcast media won’t illuminate much.”