

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: 2006 Quadrennial Regulatory Review – Review of the Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rule Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review – Review of the Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Cross-Ownership of Broadcast Stations and Newspapers; Rules and Policies Concerning Multiple Ownership of Radio Broadcast Stations in Local Markets; Definition of Radio Markets (MB Docket Nos. 06-121, 02-277, and MM Docket Nos. 01-235, 01-317 and 00-244).

Today, the Commission opens a process to review its media ownership rules, a topic of vital importance to our democracy. We begin this dialog in a neutral and even-handed fashion. The action responds to the Third Circuit’s decision in *Prometheus Radio Project v. FCC*.

It has been nearly three years since the Third Circuit stayed the Commission’s previous rules¹ and nearly two years since the Third Circuit instructed the Commission to respond to the court with further justification or amended rules.²

As we embark upon this comprehensive review, the Commission should take into account the competitive realities of the media marketplace while also ensuring the promotion of the important goals of localism and diversity. As the item indicates, the Commission will look carefully at the relationship between media ownership and localism as it moves forward with this rulemaking. To that end, the Commission will incorporate into this proceeding the efforts undertaken on this issue since the last examination of our media ownership rules.

Public input is integral to this process. The Commission has adopted an extended comment period of 120 days. Over the next several months, the Commission will hold half a dozen public hearings around the country on the topic of media ownership to more fully involve the American people. I look forward to hearing from the American people on a variety of subjects at these hearings such as the impact of the Commission’s rules on localism, campaigns and community event coverage, minority ownership, and various types of programming like children’s and family-friendly programming and independent and religious programming. The Commission also is creating a new webpage on this topic that will further contribute to making this an open and transparent process.

Finally, the Commission will initiate studies to address unanswered questions about the impact of media ownership. We will seek the resources necessary for comprehensive studies. They will be on a variety of topics that will incorporate issues including how the public gets its news and information, competition across media platforms, marketplace changes since we last reviewed our ownership rules, localism,

¹ *Prometheus Radio Project v. FCC*, No. 03-3388, 2003 WL 22052896 (3d Cir. Sept. 3, 2003).

² *Prometheus Radio Project, et al. v. F.C.C.*, 373 F.3d 372 (2004)

independent and diverse programming and the production of children's and family-friendly programming.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on each of these efforts and on these issues of great importance to the industry and the listening and viewing public.