

STATEMENT OF  
FCC CHAIRMAN KEVIN MARTIN  
PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCALISM  
PORTLAND, MAINE  
JUNE 28, 2007

Many thanks to all of you for participating in the Commission's fifth hearing on localism. Your thoughts about this issue are very important to us. I am sorry that I could not be with you today, but your participation in this process is very important and all of your comments will be submitted into the record.

Establishing and maintaining a system of local broadcasting that is responsive to the unique interests and needs of individual communities is an extremely important policy goal for the Commission. Indeed, along with competition and diversity, localism is one of the three goals underlying the media ownership rules. The Commission is currently engaged in a review of those rules and the testimony heard today along with that from previous localism hearings will inform the Commission's decision-making in the media ownership proceeding.

I also know that localism is important to broadcasters who recognize that their own success depends on responding to the needs and interests of their local communities.

Once again, the Commission has arranged for a well-respected and knowledgeable group of witnesses to participate in our hearing. I thank them for their participation and also thank the many members of the public who will also be sharing their thoughts and concerns about how broadcasters are serving the needs and interests of their communities. I look forward to our next, and final, localism hearing that will be held in Washington, DC later this year.