

**Remarks of Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate**  
**AWRT/NAB Women's Think Tank**  
**March 13, 2008**

Good Morning. I am delighted to be here today.

First I want to thank David Rehr. It's always important to thank the men who want to do the right thing and support women, and I appreciate his commitment of time and resources this event. Marsha and Jane of course influenced his decision, which is an example of exactly what I'm talking about in terms of having "spheres of influence" beyond just owning a broadcasting company.

I believe that one of the greatest challenges we face in Washington is finding ways to take ideas and actually make them reality. Today's event is a great example of how that can happen, not through government edict, but through partnering and collaborating with groups like NAB and AWRT. In my two years at the FCC, I have felt a real responsibility to work on issues that affect women and families, particularly as I am the only female Commissioner. My job has allowed me to interact with incredibly dynamic, successful, and inspirational women from across industries from telecom to media to even the satellite industry and to ask for their help in changing the corporate "face" of America.

While many have bemoaned the low numbers of female and minority ownership -- and the statistics are very troubling -- I want to actually do something to make a difference. So, several months ago I suggested that we bring together a group of

female media executives to discuss how those of you that have attained positions of leadership – in the boardrooms, control rooms, behind the microphone or in front of the camera, or in other spheres of influence, can reach back and help others trying to accomplish similar goals. NAB and AWRP and a number of you made this event come to fruition. I appreciate all of you that took the time to be here today, especially the example you are to our daughters, and the young women all across the country, of what is possible. As I tell all young women, in today's world they can be anything they want to be.

I am a strong proponent of industry consensus and market place solutions but I am very proud that, in December, my male colleagues at the Commission adopted over a dozen proposals developed by the FCC's Diversity Committee, the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, and the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters. One of those proposals was an idea I have long championed: an Access to Capitol Conference in New York City, which will be held later this year to allow prospective female and minority media entrants to meet with Wall Street investors to discuss financing opportunities.

I've had the chance to hear from women in the media industry about practices that have had an enormous and positive impact: from structured mentoring programs that pair an executive with a younger executive-track female, to internships for high school and college-aged girls, to divesting to women-owned companies. Last week I

met a female broadcaster from Illinois who will soon take over six Clear Channel stations!

In a country where women comprise more than half of the population, the rate of women in ownership and leadership position is strikingly low—just 3.4% of radio and 5% of full-power TV stations. Margaret Mead once said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” You are changing the world, and I encourage all of us to continue toward the goal of creating a media industry that reflects the true diversity of America—of the faces in this room!

Quickly before I close, I also solicit your help in educating your audiences on the upcoming DTV Transition. We’re only 341 days away and we need your help! If you have websites, newsletters, family, school PTAs or nonprofits organizations, please link to [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov).

Thank you again for having me.