

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 2, 2009

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

We understand that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will once again review media ownership rules in the near future. As the FCC considers changes to these rules, we want to work with you to ensure that a concentration of media ownership does not lead to diminished diversity of content.

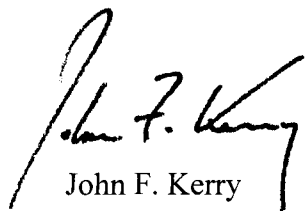
Our most immediate concern is with the number of cities hosting "duopoly" broadcast stations. Examples abound of local television stations absorbing one another and merging their news operations, resulting in fewer local voices on the airwaves and reduced consumer choice.

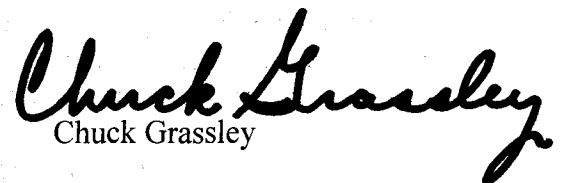
The existing rules governing television station ownership are intended to ensure that the use of public airwaves serves the public interest. Unfortunately, some broadcast companies have taken advantage of a sympathetic FCC over the last eight years to gain control of multiple television stations in a given market.

As a result of consolidation, local evening newscasts are now presented on competing network affiliates by the exact same news staff and anchor team in markets across the country, from Honolulu to Cedar Rapids to Baltimore. In addition to fewer news programs, many believe consolidated ownership of local stations leads to an erosion of quality programming for children.

As the Commission moves forward with its review of media ownership rules, we strongly urge you to examine the effect multiple station ownership within a local media market has on the public interest and to consider potential courses of action should the problem need to be addressed.

Sincerely,


John F. Kerry


Chuck Grassley

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