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To: A7.A7(WKENNARD)
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Subject: Telecom

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 had a hidden provision which has been terrible for radio in this country. Allowing single entities to control more and more stations has been a blow to diversity on the airwaves. Radio is a lot different than the newspaper business, as there are only so many spots on the dial.

News and local content as well as diversity of musical programming have taken a hit since the passing of the Act and the takeover of the airwaves by faceless megamedia conglomerates. It's also been much tougher for the common American and his/her small businesses to succeed in radio. If a few people control what millions see and hear, this country is headed for a disaster. At this time, at least in radio, "freedom of the press" is a luxury that only the rich can afford. This is even more true when Congress sends orders to your agency requiring the silencing of microbroadcasters - that is, community voices who want nothing but to serve their neighbors in peace.

I have heard many of your recent comments wishing for more diversity on the airwaves and I am grateful for your concern. Any actions you could take regarding this issue would help preserve freedom of the press and be greatly appreciated by Americans everywhere.

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