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May 14, 2001
82C Linden Place
Red Bank, NJ 07701-1900

RECEIVED

Michael Powell, FCC Chair
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W., Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I wish to share with you my concern that the FCC is not fulfilling its original mandate to manage finite airwaves for the public good. It is clear that recent FCC decisions favor the interests of large communications and broadcasting corporations over the interest the public has in maintaining access to the public airwaves and in maintaining a diversity of voices via this limited public resource.

The public depends upon a diversity of voices on the airwaves as this medium is the most significant source of civic information that voters require to form opinions that will guide our involvement in the democratic process. I feel strongly that this is of central importance to the validity of our nation as a republic. A free press cannot exist if all presses are owned by a few moneyed interests.

Please work to limit the aggregation of ownership of radio and television stations in the hands of a few wealthy corporations. Please support the efforts of previous chairman Kennard in legalizing micropower FM stations for public access to the airwaves and public involvement in public discourse.

The airwaves belong to the citizens. It has been given to the corporations and our government officials have been too fearful of the power of big business to take necessary steps to return this resource to its original place as a resource owned by, available to, and dedicated to the interests of the citizens of our nation.

I am interested in your position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Barrett

Michael B. Barrett

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