

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2102

July 19, 2006

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

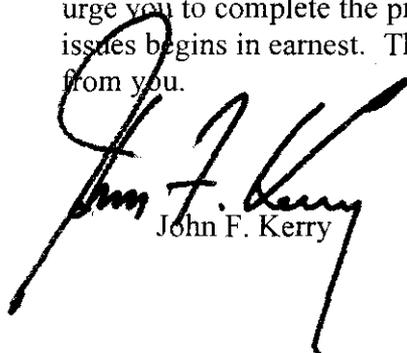
In June, 2004, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a public notice seeking comment on ways to increase minority, women, and small business media ownership. Since that time, the FCC has not taken further action in that proceeding.

You recently announced your intention for the FCC to move forward with a revision of media ownership rules. We strongly believe that the FCC should address the issues of minority and small business media ownership before taking up the wider media ownership issue. Doing so will inform the overall review of our media ownership landscape from a small business perspective.

As you are aware, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee recently completed consideration of comprehensive communications legislation. A Kerry/Nelson Amendment that requires the FCC to complete consideration of this proceeding before taking up wider media ownership issues was adopted. The Commerce Committee's unanimous acceptance of this provision should provide the FCC with sufficient incentive to advance and complete this rulemaking -- whether or not broader communications legislation is considered by the full Senate this year.

The goals of promoting minority, women, and small business ownership in the communications industry are set forth in the Communications Act of 1934. For example, under Section 309 the FCC is directed to promote opportunities for minorities, women, and small businesses. Ensuring that such directives are accomplished is important to achieving a diverse media, particularly in an era of increased media concentration.

We urge prompt completion of the proceeding and, as our Amendment directs, urge you to complete the proceeding before consideration of broader media consolidation issues begins in earnest. Thanks you for your consideration, we look forward to hearing from you.



John F. Kerry



Barack Obama