

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2003

Dear Chairman Powell:

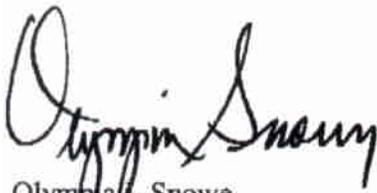
We note with disappointment your announcement that the FCC's revised media ownership rules will be released in final form June 2nd without any opportunity for the Congress or the public to review them beforehand. We believe it is virtually impossible to serve the public interest in this extremely important and highly complex proceeding without letting the public know about and comment on the changes you intend to make to these critical rules.

While the Commission and its staff have amassed a significant record of comments to date on current media ownership rules, the Commission has not put forth any specific changes it is planning.

Dramatic changes in the structure of our media marketplace could have long-term consequences on the diversity of voices and free expression in our nation. Given the gravity of this proceeding, we are puzzled as to why the FCC would not insist on having a thorough discussion about any proposed changes before these would take effect. Openness in this process is the best path to ensure that Congress and the public support the agency's direction.

We again urge the Commission to provide full disclosure of any proposed changes before they are made final.

Sincerely,



Olympia Snowe
United States Senator



Byron Dorgan
United States Senator



Ernest F. Hollings
United States Senator



Trent Lott
United States Senator

Kay Bailey Hutchison
Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator

Almy
Daniel K. Inouye
United States Senator

John D. Rockefeller
John D. Rockefeller
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Barbara Boxer
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Bill Nelson
Bill Nelson
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Frank R. Lautenberg
Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Patty Murray
Patty Murray
United States Senator

Wayne Allard
Wayne Allard
United States Senator