

December 19, 2007 - Rep. Slaughter Criticizes FCC for Loosening Rule on Media Ownership

Washington, DC – Yesterday, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) adopted a proposal that allows greater media consolidation by loosening a 32-year-old restriction preventing a single company from owning both newspapers and television or radio stations. Representative Louise M. Slaughter, Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, a longtime advocate of media fairness criticized the FCC's action.

For Immediate Release

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“The decision yesterday by the FCC to further concentrate the media in the hands of the few is simply appalling,” said Rep. Slaughter. “The FCC’s actions place extraordinary restrictions on the public’s access to free media and diminish our democracy by making it more difficult for independent or competing voices to be heard. The American people deserve a media that gives fair coverage to all sides of an issue and different points of view, so they can make informed decisions, especially ones that will affect their lives and the future of our democracy,” continued Slaughter.

“The airwaves are owned by the public, not the mega media corporations. By permitting a few giant conglomerates to own most of the newspapers and television or radio stations within a single city, we hold information hostage to the executives in a few corporate boardrooms. They make decisions regarding content not based on fairness, or balance, or localism, or diversity, but on the bottom line. Americans deserve better.”

In a 3-to-2 vote, the FCC relaxed the newspaper-broadcast cross-ownership rules in the twenty largest

markets, while granting dozens of permanent waivers of newspaper-broadcast combinations in large and small markets that had been previously given temporary waivers.

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