The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert,

On September 16, 2003, the Senate passed by a vote of 55-40 Senate Joint Resolution 17, a Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval on the Federal Communications Commission’s media ownership regulations released June 2, 2003. We are writing to request that you allow the full House to consider this important resolution.

The resolution would nullify the highly contentious FCC rules that would allow increased concentration of media ownership in broadcasting and permit cross-ownership of newspapers and TV stations in most communities. The implementation of these rules has already been stayed by the 3rd District Court of Appeals pending judicial review. This stay grants the Congress a window of opportunity to consider how best to address these rules.

During the debate, Senators expressed grave concerns about the threat to media diversity and localism posed by the June 2nd FCC decision. This resolution received strong tri-partisan backing, as 12 Republicans and 1 Independent joined 42 Democrats in support of the resolution.

There is perhaps no other issue as central to the health of our democracy than the just governance of the media system. It is the foundation for informed citizenship and political decision-making. It is critical to maintain a diverse, local, and competitive body of media sources.

As you know, more than 2.3 million Americans have contacted the FCC to register their opposition to these rule changes. Groups as diverse as the National Rifle Association, the National Organization for Women, the National Council of Churches, Consumers Union, the Parents Television Council and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights have joined together in a unique and powerful coalition of dissent. These groups not only disagreed with the FCC regulations, but with the very faulty process that established them.

It is clear that there are honest disagreements among Members of Congress concerning these FCC rules. It is equally clear that the public deserves a debate and a vote on this important matter. The Senate has addressed this matter and executed its responsibility. In the House of Representatives, we should do no less. We hope you will grant us this opportunity.
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George Miller
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The Dalton
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Michael N. McCaul
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Alfred S. Correa
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Michael N. McCaul
Member of Congress

Ben Cardin
Member of Congress

Jerry Nadler
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

Melvin L. Watt
Member of Congress

Cindy B. Hyde
Member of Congress

Eric L. Samuelson
Member of Congress

Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress

Jim P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Richard C. Shelby
Member of Congress

Chet Edwards
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Laurie Slaughter
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