

Support of Diversity in Media Ownership

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3 **WHEREAS**, freedom of the press and public access to diverse media are
4 prerequisites for a functioning democracy; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, the broadcast airwaves are owned commonly by the public and should
7 be managed to serve the public interest; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, adherence to the highest journalistic principles is a public trust; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, the public interest is best served by the availability of a broadly diverse
12 range of viewpoints; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, media diversity is seriously threatened by further consolidation of
15 media ownership in an already highly concentrated market; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, increased consolidation has made it more difficult to expand minority
18 ownership of broadcast media outlets, a key driver of diversity in news and cultural
19 programming; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, deregulation of radio ownership rules under the 1996
22 Telecommunications Act caused unprecedented consolidation, dramatically
23 decreasing competition, reducing local accountability and content diversity; and
24 limiting access to the airwaves for local artists, community groups and public
25 officials; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission approved an unprecedented
28 loosening of public interest limits on media ownership in June 2003 only to see it
29 overturned by the Courts after millions of people across America from every
30 political orientation voiced opposition; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, despite the fact the courts rejected these rules, the Federal
33 Communications Commission will soon reconsider an unprecedented rollback of
34 media ownership regulations which protect competition, content diversity and local
35 accountability in our media; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, the elimination and weakening of these regulations are likely to reduce
38 competition, the quality of local media coverage, local accountability, diversity of
39 content, diversity of voices, and the amount and quality of news coverage in
40 broadcast and print media across the country, while providing windfall profits for a
41 small handful of corporate media owners; and
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