



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
February 26, 2013

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## **STATEMENT FROM FCC CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI ON THE STATUS OF MEDIA OWNERSHIP PROCEEDING**

### **In light of proposal by the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council to conduct new independent study**

Washington, D.C. – The following statement is attributable to FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski:

“Yesterday, the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council informed the Commission that it will conduct a focused, independent study on the effects of cross-ownership rules on minority ownership and newsgathering, in order to enhance the record in the Commission’s proceeding. The study is expected to take several weeks and will be filed with the Commission, after which MMTC suggests that the agency solicit public input, to be followed by a Commission vote. In this heavily-litigated area where a strong record is particularly important, I believe this is a sensible approach to moving forward and resolving the issues raised in this proceeding.

As the Commission considers the issues before it, a few goals are particularly important: guarding against excessive media consolidation, promoting ownership diversity, enabling robust local news for all communities, and fostering economic growth and opportunity. The growth of the Internet is changing the media landscape, including the economics of local newspapers and broadcasters. At the same time, while broadband adoption is increasing, tens of millions of Americans do not yet have ready access to news and other content available on the Internet, and changes in ownership rules may have different effects on those with or without Internet access.

With this in mind, earlier in the Commission’s quadrennial review of its broadcast ownership rules, I circulated a draft order for my colleagues’ consideration that would primarily preserve existing ownership rules while proposing steps to promote media diversity and modest reforms that could help strengthen local journalism. I proposed to (1) keep the bulk of existing broadcast ownership rules in place, including the rules limiting the number of TV and radio stations that can be co-owned in any market, and the rules prohibiting ownership of more than one major broadcast network; (2) provide various diversity-promoting broadcast opportunities for small businesses and proceed with studies to determine whether additional measures can be taken in the next quadrennial review to promote minority ownership; (3) retain the rule prohibiting TV-newspaper combinations, while providing greater transparency and predictability on waivers, in a way that would strengthen the bar against major TV station-newspaper combinations, and reduce the bar to smaller TV station-newspaper combinations in the top 20 markets; and (4) remove the bar on cross-ownership of radio stations and newspapers. Circulation of the proposed order has led to healthy discussions among Commissioners and stakeholders about the substance of the issues and the state of the record before the agency. The study announced yesterday addresses an issue of

importance, will augment the record, and will assist the Commission in resolving the issues before it on the full record.

In addition, a broad coalition of stakeholders has asked the Commission to clarify that foreign investment above 25 percent in broadcast stations could be in the public interest in particular cases. Today, the FCC's Media Bureau is issuing a Public Notice seeking comment on this issue.”

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