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FREEDOM BROADCASTING, INC DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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WWMT-TV
Grand Rapids
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WPEC-TV
West Palm Beach
Ft. Pierce

WLNE-TV
Providence
New Bedford

WRGB-TV
Albany
Schenectady
Troy

WTVG-TV
Canton

WLAJ-TV
Lansing

KFDM-TV
Beaumont
Port Arthur

KTVL-TV
Medford
Klamath Falls

May 11, 2000

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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
TW B204
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: **Proposed Transfer of Control of America Online, Inc. (AOL) and Time Warner, Inc., CS Docket No. 00-30**

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing to provide the views of Freedom Broadcasting, Inc. on the proposed AOL/Time Warner merger. Freedom is the licensee of eight television stations, three of which are ABC affiliates. Time Warner cable TV systems carry a number of those stations.

The Commission is aware of how Time Warner disrupted the viewing public earlier this month when it ceased carriage of ABC-TV in several markets. Time Warner was willing to take television viewers hostage in its contract negotiations with ABC, at the very same time that Time Warner is seeking government consent to its merger with AOL. This raises a very frightening specter of the power of the combined AOL/Time Warner media giant.

No cable system or television station operator should ever forget whom it serves. Broadcast TV service belongs to the American public. And as Chairman Kennard noted in his recent speech in New Orleans, the ABC-TV blackout "calls into question whether [the cable] industry can be trusted to be an honest gatekeeper . . ."

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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Federal Communications Commission
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Freedom is proud of its longstanding history of serving the American public in middle and small-sized TV markets. Freedom takes very seriously its mandate to serve a trustee of the public's airwaves. The Commission should require no less from the owners of cable TV systems.

ABC/Disney has urged the Commission to condition its consent to this merger by imposing certain conditions on AOL Time Warner. In considering those proposals, Freedom urges the Commission to ensure that (i) the cable systems owned by the new AOL Time Warner will meet their service obligations to the public, and (ii) the combined media giant will think twice before it again attempts to enmesh the viewing public in its private contractual disputes.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan J. Bell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Alan J. Bell

ds