



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

# LEGISLATIVE ALERT

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## **OPPOSE ATTEMPTS TO USE NATIONAL SECURITY TO RE-REGULATE MEDIA OWNERSHIP**

As the Senate continues its consideration of the FY2005 National Defense Authorization Act, some liberal senators plan to offer amendments to reverse the FCC's commonsense, free market media ownership ruling at its Biennial Ownership Review last year. **ATR strongly opposes any amendments to S. 2400 that would re-regulate media ownership and reverse the FCC's ruling, using legislation necessary to our national security.**

### The facts on media ownership:

- The old media ownership rules were written when only three commercial networks existed. However, the prevalence of hundreds of cable television channels and Internet sites have rendered these restrictions obsolete, as there are now limitless sources of diverse information available to all consumers.
- **Of the 1,721 full-power commercial and non-commercial television stations in the U.S., each of the four major networks owns less than three percent.** The danger of a single monolithic network controlling all television information is greatly exaggerated.
- The FCC's decision furthers deregulation that has resulted in an explosion of conservative voices on TV and Radio. Ever since Ronald Reagan's FCC eliminated the so-called "Fairness Doctrine" in 1987, conservatives have dominated the airwaves. **Attempts to re-regulate media ownership are attempts to stifle conservative voices.**
- **Liberals won't stop with ownership caps.** Democrats want to re-regulate the entire industry, with a comprehensive plan (proposed by Rep. Maurice Hinchey, a New York liberal with a 95% ADA rating) which includes reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine.
- **Congress has already spoken on this issue.** Earlier this year, the FY2004 Omnibus Appropriations bill adjusted the limits on the number of stations a network could own. Attempts were made to re-regulate cross ownership, but it was clear that these attempts did not enjoy the support of Congress. **Legislation authorization America's security is not the place to attempt to circumvent the will of Congress on media ownership.**

Media ownership has been resolved by Congress and the FCC. **ATR opposes any and all attempts to re-regulate media ownership.**

**ATR MAY RATE A VOTE FOR RE-REGULATION AS A VOTE AGAINST TAXPAYERS!**