



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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Contact: Jay Strell  
Sunshine Sachs  
[strell@sunshinesachs.com](mailto:strell@sunshinesachs.com)  
212.691.2800

**WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA EAST URGES THE FEDERAL  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO STOP THE CONSOLIDATION OF  
OWNERSHIP OF NEWS**

***WGAE CALLS FOR THE CONTINUED ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO ALLOW THE NEWS MEDIA TO  
REPORT AS WELL AS THEY CAN***

The Writer's Guild of America, East (WGAE) today issued comments to the Federal Communications Commission in connection with the FCC's quadrennial regulatory review of rules on broadcast ownership.

Lowell Peterson, Executive Director of WGAE, submitted the Guild's concerns to the FCC after a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the matter was published in the Federal Register on January 19. "Continued consolidation of media ownership undermines the quality of broadcast news," Peterson said, "and it reduces the number and diversity of perspectives presented to the American public." Peterson said additional resources should be devoted to investigating, writing, and producing news and public affairs programming on television, radio, and the Internet.

Excerpts from the Guild's comments to the FCC: "The Writers Guild of America, East takes issue with the assertion made by various media companies that consolidation of ownership frees up resources to improve news coverage. There is no substitute for spending on trained, experienced journalists and giving them the time and resources necessary to investigate, write, and produce material that is well-researched, thoughtful, and reliable. Simply permitting television, radio, internet, or newspaper outlets to combine will inevitably result in less substance, in the absence of clearly-defined requirements that specific levels of resources be devoted to journalism.

Adding hours of broadcast time per week, and spreading it over a wider variety of outlets, does not enhance diversity or quality, unless staff is expanded and given the independence and sufficient means to do the work. Fewer news writers, editors, reporters, camera crews, and producers means fewer independent voices; less time and effort devoted to investigation and production of quality pieces; fewer opportunities

to explore contrary points of few or overlooked facts; and less time and energy to sharpen questions and make stories more compelling to the viewer.”

The Writers Guild of America, East, AFL-CIO (WGAE) is a labor union representing writers in motion pictures, television, cable, digital media, and broadcast news. The Guild negotiates and administers contracts that protect the creative and economic rights of their members; conduct programs, seminars, and events on issues of interest to writers; and present writers’ views to various bodies of government. For more information on the Writers Guild of America, East, visit [www.wgaeast.org](http://www.wgaeast.org).

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