

From: Clay T. Whitehead
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 3:57 PM
To: Susan Burgess
Subject: RE: factual information about the proposed House bill

I think net neutrality is mixed up with broadcast station ownership restrictions and perhaps other anti-business measures in electronic media the Dems are mulling now that they control the Congressional agenda. The ownership restrictions are up at the FCC this week (??), but I don't want to get into that here.

From: Susan Burgess
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 3:47 PM
To: tom@cw.com
Subject: factual information about the proposed House bill

Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.) is the sponsor of the Media Ownership Reform Act (MORA) of 2005, H.R. 3302.

Some news articles report that Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has proposed a similar companion bill in the Senate, but I have not found such a bill, and his website doesn't say that he's proposed a bill in the Senate. Rather, the site says only that Sanders introduced "legislation that would rescind the terrible FCC decision of June 2, 2003 that would allow for more media consolidation and has presented the Speaker of the House with a letter signed by over 200 members demanding a vote on a Resolution of Disapproval with regard to that FCC decision." Journalists may have misconstrued this sentence, which could simply mean that Sanders introduced similar legislation in the House when he was a member there before being elected to the Senate.

The House bill, which has 16 cosponsors, has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), head of the House Domestic Policy Committee, says that he will hold hearings on the media because "the media has become the servant of a very narrow corporate agenda." The hearings will not be held for at least several weeks b/c the Committee will not have set their agenda for several weeks.

MORA's cosponsors:

Peter DeFazio (Or.)
Bob Filner (Ca.)
Alcee Hastings (Fl.)
Marcy Kaptur (Ohio)
Barbara Lee (Ca.)
Jim McDermott (Wa.)
James Moran (Va.)
Major R. Owens (N.Y.)
Bernard Sanders (Vt.)
Janice Schakowsky (Ill.)
Louis Slaughter (N.Y.)
Hilda Solis (Ca.)
Forney Pete Stark (Ca.)
Maxine Waters (Ca.)
Diane Watson (Ca.)
Lynn Woolsey (Ca.)

