

**JOINT CONCURRING STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS
AND
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

Re: *Applications of Eagle Broadcasting Company, Inc. and Eagle II Broadcasting Company, Inc., Assignors, and Saga Communications of New England, LLC, Assignee, for Assignment of Licenses of WHCU(AM), WYXL(FM), WNYE(AM), and WQNY(FM), Ithaca, New York.*

The petitioners in this case allege that these license transfers are not in the public interest because they will perpetuate excessive concentration in the Ithaca radio market. The majority acknowledges that we must give a “hard look” to such allegations—even if the transfers comply with our general local radio ownership caps.

Unfortunately, the majority fails to apply its own “hard look” standard, giving short shrift to many of petitioner’s allegations. For instance, with respect to the allegation that a single entity will control 64 percent of advertising revenues in the Ithaca market, the majority simply asserts that the petitioners failed to justify a departure from our general rule and—most troubling—relies on the FCC’s discredited media ownership decision that was overturned and remanded by the courts for the proposition that advertising revenues are of “decreasing relevance” as a barometer of competition.

In the end, we are left with a record that makes it difficult to assess the true impact of this transaction on competition, localism, and diversity in the Ithaca market. Based on the limited information before us, we reluctantly concur in the majority’s decision.