Comments for Television Station Ownership Rule Change

I think this is a blatant attempt to help the major television conglomerates consolidate their power in the local television industry in response to the loss of their grip over the subscription video services industry with the rise of online subscription video services. I think that the cap is more than necessary to keep localism alive. Indeed the only local programming most people even watch anymore is their local news where it has been shown that control can be exerted by the ownership groups to the detriment of consumers who do not want such skew on their news.[[1]](#footnote-1)

All we have to do is look at the consolidation of radio network ownership which has had more lax ownership caps to see that this cap is necessary to protect localism. Currently Clear Channel and Cumulus Media collectively own more than half of U.S. stations. I do not think it would be good for localism to have Sinclair and Meredith own more than 50% of local TV stations. Further, relaxation of cross ownership requirements means that consolidation across media types is not only possible but likely and intelligent business. It is not however, protective of localism or of neutral news gathering which is what this rule is in place to protect.

1. Sydney Ember, *Sinclair Requires TV Stations to Air Segments that Tilt to the Right*, NY Times, (May 12, 2017)https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/12/business/media/sinclair-broadcast-komo-conservative-media.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)