Deny the merger petition between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media. Sinclair is already United States's largest broadcast company and if merged with Tribune Media, they would own stations that reach 72% of American households -- consolidating the power to decide what information reaches us into the hands of a powerful few. Sinclair has a history of forcing local stations to air politically biased segments produced at their corporate headquarters rather than news that reflects the concerns and interests of the communities as we saw recently when a Sinclair-dictated commentary was fake news and, like drones, the newscasters read — some with personality, some dry — about its dangers, and about how they pride themselves in reporting facts. *This is extremely dangerous to United States’s form of democracy because it is bloated, monopolistic and plainly an unhealthy disregard for all concentrations of power. Sinclair does not provide sufficient evidence of the public interest. Sinclair-Tribune would use its market power to extract higher retrans fees. Sen. Richard Durbin has warned against the proposed merger writing that the proposed deal "threatens to do permanent damage to the American tradition of local broadcasting and will take a wrecking ball to the pillars of objectivism and diversity in local broadcasting."* **Reject the Sinclair-Tribune merger.**

Trump, with his characteristic knack for being more provocateur than leader, tweeted recently, “Sinclair is far superior to CNN and even more Fake NBC, which is a total joke.”

Trump and all you FCC Commissioners: Take this message to heart (if you even have one); while you may think so, there is a serious problem here beyond Sinclair being Not-CNN or Not-NBC. Just because Sinclair isn’t liberal doesn’t make them safe. What reach Sinclair has prior to a Tribune Media purchase will only expand, almost double. Bad move, as it has united both left and right media organizations against them. The FCC is already on the growing list of federal parties not to be trusted and to be vigorously opposed by United States citizens. FCC will only exacerbate a decay in the ability of citizens to be honestly informed in affairs of public policy.

Trump: pay attention to the reality that prominent conservatives like CEO Christopher Ruddy at Newsmax, Glenn Beck, One America News in San Diego, The Blaze, and even Republican former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay express the same objections to the Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media merger. Plus, the attorneys general from Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island wrote that the merger “will increase market consolidation above the acceptable statutory limit, reduce consumer choices, and threaten the diversity of voices in media.” You FCC Commissioners know there is trouble in enactment of approval for this merger.

Ruddy puts it simply: “It’s going to give them enormous reach — 70 percent of the country — and it’s going to dwarf anything else in scale that’s on cable news or any of the major TV networks right now. And it’s a danger to not only liberals but also to Republicans and conservatives.”

Opposing this nightmarish merger are also American Cable Association, former FCC chairman and Common Cause special adviser Michael Copps, One America News Network president Charles Herring, Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA) president Ed Black and Competitive Carriers Association senior VP Tim Donovan.

Not only is such a concentration of corporate power dangerous for the American mind, it’s also dangerous to our very economic ideology. Industrial Capitalism prides itself on proclaiming that it guarantees fair competition.

FCC Commissioners and Trump: Stop the horrendous Sinclair deal and apply pressure for a free, fair and diverse press.