

I urge you to oppose the AT&T Comcast merger, which threatens the public interest principles that are essential to the Internet as an open and nondiscriminatory communications medium. The cable industry has long been characterized by anticompetitive local monopolies, restrictive control over content and services, high subscription rates and poor customer service. There is every reason to believe that these practices will be replicated in the combined company's control over high-speed Internet connections. AT&T Comcast will become a powerful media gatekeeper, leveraging its control over the network to exert undo influence over the evolution of broadband Internet content and services. The resulting lack of competition, innovation and diversity will harm both our economy and our democracy in the long run, with consumers left to bear the costs.

When the cable industry first appeared there were great promises as to the availability of "public access" to media creation. This never really materialized partly due to a lack of dedication to this idea from the cable industry and partly due to the limitations of the technology. Advances in technology have made it possible for individuals whose voices are really heard to create media. These voices are important to our political discourse and our societal well-being. This merger will LIMIT the ability of these voices to be heard through restrictive bandwidth policies that have already been put into place. Please oppose this merger and work towards the opening of media resources.