

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Subjecting a plurality of opinions in the public debate to the cash nexus of the farcical "marketplace of ideas" does a disservice to democracy. Please open a public debate featuring advisory councils made up of informed citizens from all walks of life. The media belong to the people, not to the corporations who operate them. Furthermore, I strongly oppose the destruction of cross-media ownership rules and reject the spurious argument that consolidation of media holdings is in the public interest. I have watched with continuing distaste over the last few years as the number of available media channels increases and diversity of fare, particularly in the all-important news media, decreases. This is not an accident, nor is it a natural process. It is the direct result of FCC regulation of commercial media operation. We need alternatives.