

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.

I am completely outraged by the degradation in quality that the news media, in general, has suffered since the loosening of monopoly restrictions in 1996. Currently, my political perspective and other interests are NOT being represented by the mainstream media, as the balance of power has quickly shifted to a small handful of media conglomerates, who are more interested in advertising profits than in serving the public by delivering balanced, unbiased, quality, fact-based (i.e., obtained through investigation and verification) news. I suspect this trend can only get much worse under the new regulations being discussed by FCC Chairman Michael Powell. His extreme, pro-business, right-wing bias is inconsistent with freedom of the press and an unbiased approach to news delivery. In short, corporate control of the media is causing irreparable damage to our democracy by promoting and perpetuating certain biased perspectives, while suppressing dissent.

I urge both the U.S. Congress and the FCC to take a strong stand for democracy, to preserve and strengthen the regulations that limit media consolidation, and to vigorously promote public access to unbiased viewpoints in the media. After all, U.S. airways belong to the people and the FCC is supposed to manage them in our interest, whether that leads to profit-making or not. Michael Powell and many of the other members of the FCC's current administration appear to be quite hostile to the concept of public interest. Thank you.