

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.

This morning, I worked a 1-3 am shift on WHFB, 91.3 and 98.1 FM, a community radio station in Bloomington, IN. While clearly not a prime time slot, an opportunity to speak to members of my community over the airwaves makes me appreciate a few things. Firstly, radio is a common media from which a community can unite, so that they can share news with others (public events calendars, call-in shows, news programs, live arts performances) and can serve to more closely knit people. Indeed, if the airwaves don't belong to the people for their own common purposes, to whom do they belong? Corporations have little hope of encouraging diversity of viewpoint, because they must reach as many consumers as possible, therefore always offering a middling viewpoint and seeking never to offend or pander to a smaller group than might be profitable.