

As a musician and a concerned citizen about the future of cultural diversity in our society, I ask you to strongly reconsider the enactment of the proposed new broadcast ownership rules. Since the passage of the Telecommunications Act in 1996, there are clear lessons that the dramatic consolidation of radio ownership has negatively impacted the benefits of competition, diversity, and localism. The only results this legislation has produced is homogenization of playlists, the death of programming diversity, less local programming, reduced public access to the airwaves and rapidly declining public satisfaction with radio and the music it plays. In addition, it has reduced the ability of recording artists to take the risks that reshape our consciousness, to explore new ideas and new sounds and, ultimately, to be heard. Proof of this is manifested in the music industry's slumping sales.

Significant modification or the repeal of the current broadcasting rules that is being debated, originally placed by Congress to encourage the diversity of information, programming, and political views, only serves to further the interests of a view media conglomerates intent on sanitizing content and making it more homogenous. It is compelling to note that the broadcast interests who clearly stand to benefit from further consolidation have seemingly absolved themselves of their responsibility to cover this proceeding as a news story. If this is the sort of biased coverage we get now I can't imagine what will pass as journalism in the next phase of our increasingly consolidated media future.

Again, I ask you to reconsider further deregulations of the broadcast ownership rules. The effects of the Telecommunication Act have been detrimental enough on the equitable distribution of a variety of content. To continue this deregulation only serves to further reduce the diversity, eclecticism and richness of cultural and political content available to our citizens. Limiting our choices is not democracy, its censorship, and this the only effective result the proposed changes will create.