

I would like to express my opposition to the proposed changes in FCC rules that would allow and cause massive consolidation of every form of media in the United States into the hands of a few companies. One of the cornerstones of our democracy has been our long tradition of having a free press and free speech and it is important that we keep that. Consolidation of the media industry will serve no useful purpose but it could cause tremendous harm to our democracy because of the many thousands of independent voices in media outlets that will be silenced. Some of the most important and historic news stories that have changed the course of history have originated from small media outlets.

Secondly, radio and television stations, newspapers, and cable systems in many small towns are small businesses who are owned by local people. Without a level playing field, they will be unable to compete in the future with the handful of media giants who buy up any and every media outlet in the country. This will lead to the loss of jobs at the local level, when a media giant buys up every outlet in a community they will eliminate jobs and may not even maintain any local physical presence. This will also make it difficult if not impossible for new media businesses to be started in the future. The net result will be the loss of many existing jobs and the rules that would make it nearly impossible to create new jobs in the future.