

Dear Chairman Powell and board members:

In regards to expanding ownership rules of broadcast and print mediums, please consider the analogy below when deciding how to vote:

Take hundreds of news/information/talk/opinion programs or article forums that allows dozens if not hundreds or thousands to convey their information, ideas and beliefs to thousands upon thousands of listeners, watchers and readers. The ideas and beliefs may be good, serious, implausible, ridiculous and some would undoubtedly be evil. The input though would be from a large, broad spectrum of people and an even larger body of individuals would be allowed to be exposed to that information. Exposed to the ideas and beliefs and able to develop their own opinions, etc. Knowledge is power right?

Reduce those forums to 10, 20, or even 100. Give the power of all information, ideas and opinions to these outlets. Provide millions with the good, serious, implausible, ridiculous and evil ideas and beliefs of a handful of decision makers. Knowledge is power right?

In closing and on a personal note, I've seen the results of deregulation. From my first experiences in radio during the late 70's to my final departure in 2001, deregulation can be good- to a point. It brought in investment capital which the industry needed. But for the most part I experienced large staff reductions, centralization and homogenization of programming, tightening of playlists so the same songs play over and over, the expansion of commercial breaks from four to eight minutes, and a "get the sale however you can" mentality pervade the industry. And payola? It's all over. They call it consideration now.

Thanks,

George Minns