

Dear Chairman Powell,

With fewer owners of newspapers and TV, diversity of news and information is restricted. We will no longer have freedom of speech. We have already seen hundreds examples of censorship with prohibitions on commercials by nonprofit organizations (ie Buy Nothing Day and the Win Without War coalition), and journalists' stories censored if it could hurt the profits of a company (ie stories on bovine growth hormones in milk as documented in "Toxic Sludge is Good for You"). This censorship will only increase if there are fewer owners.

I support freedom of speech. You should too. If you vote for further deregulation then you are eroding our constitutional guarantee to freedom of speech.

As a supporter in the rights allowed to us as citizens under the US Constitution, I urge you to delay the June 2 vote on media ownership regulations, allow public hearings, and make the opinions expressed in those hearings public. Then I demand that when you hear the majority supports freedom of speech, that you vote in the interest of the American people and against further rollbacks in ownership limits. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Melissa D. Bernardin