

Dear Chairman Powell,

When I went to school for telecommunications, we learned that the broadcast media were licensed through the FCC because the airwaves were public property, and the industry was subsidized by the public in order to receive news and later entertainment.

In law school, I learned that the industry itself requested that there be some regulation to ensure that their individual stations wouldn't face conglomerate media moguls with disproportionate power over the industry. This is right in line with antitrust law, which, with Enron-like scandals and unprecedented malfeasance has unstabilized several industries, is becoming more attractive again.

Deregulation allows myopic reporting of news, and facilitates capture of the media by special interests and government actors. Since the deregulation of the Reagan era, the public service of news delivery has taken a back seat to entertainment, paid programming and advertising revenue. The average person does not get the balanced information they need to make decisions that impact our lives locally and globally.

It was very evident during the war coverage that much of the media prides itself on the editorial content of their news more than providing two sides. In that atmosphere, it is even more important that there be more media voices providing different views. Documentarians have reported that even PBS has become more involved in editing the content when it expresses a different opinion than the current administration. Any regulation that enables greater consolidation of the industry is an anathema to free markets which require competition to thrive, and freedom of speech, which requires access. Please do not eviscerate the role of the FCC by bending to this pressure to allow great consolidation of the industry. It is the very circumstance that our forefathers and pioneers of the industry saw as the greatest threat to our freedoms.

Thank you for your consideration.