

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation. Local jobs are lost and relevant news and commentary are dictated from headquarters hundreds of miles away.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them; why we need to encourage local ownership and smaller consolidations, not absentee owners and fewer viewpoints. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.