

Cable companies should be closely regulated! I can't emphasize this too much. They are a service.

Giant cable companies should not be permitted to grow larger. Further consolidation in the cable industry is a clear violation of horizontal ownership rules that must be re-established to serve the public interest.

The concentration of power and control over distribution of media is a growing problem in this country. Though we have more channels available than ever before, they are under the operation of a handful of giant corporations.

If Comcast and Time Warner are allowed to merge with Adelphia, the two companies will control nearly 50

percent of the national market.

This level of concentration in the cable industry will lead to higher consumer rates and lower quality service.

Since Comcast has taken over ATT services have been less and costing more, which is NOT what they agreed to do when they made application for the merger!

Since passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the “deregulation” of cable, consumers have seen their rates jump an average of 59 percent — with some areas experiencing even more dramatic increases.

We are required to buy channels we don't want or need because the cable operators bundle them together. The

quality of customer service often reflects the fact that cable television is not a competitive market.

Meanwhile, the cost of cable modem service remains out of reach for many households, holding constant for years and selectively underserving rural and low-income Americans. The American people are watching the digital divide widen even as the need for access to high-speed networks increases.

Cable companies have become less responsive to the needs and requirements of communities. The quality of public accountability in local franchise agreements has declined, as big companies leverage their power to

squeeze local  
governments.

In many communities,  
the truly  
independent sources  
of local news,  
information and  
culture come from  
the public channels  
produced at the  
local access  
centers.

Unfortunately, local  
channels lack the  
resources to produce  
the programming that  
citizens want and  
need.

The last thing we  
need is to reward  
the anti-competitive  
actions of cable  
giants by permitting  
greater  
consolidation in  
ownership, reducing  
competition, and  
encouraging more of  
the same.