

I oppose any further loosening of the national cable ownership limits. I oppose the Comcast-Time Warner buy-out of Adelphia Communications.

I work at a public access (community) television station, where our mission is to provide ordinary community members with the tools and the training to create their own television programming. The availability of this resource allows for multiple channels featuring government meetings, educational and youth programming, valuable local information, and a very wide diversity in opinions and points of view. Public access connects our communities directly with American democracy.

Because public access is only available on cable, it is of paramount importance to control the cable companies' power over the communities they serve. Comcast, the major provider in our area, is notorious for using what amounts to bullying tactics against city governments in their negotiations, which ultimately hurts free speech because public access is not one of Comcast's priorities.

Comcast has been dragging its feet when it comes to providing the network services it agreed to provide, and that recalcitrance means our schools still don't have the internal video network they were promised more than three years ago. The larger Comcast and Time Warner become, the more our communities lose out when it comes to funding and services for public access.

The FCC should preserve and protect the public's right to free speech by limiting the size of media conglomerates, including the cable industry.

Sincerely,  
Nancy B. Brown