

I'm writing to express my support for keeping the local franchising of cable companies.

It is vitally important to me that we retain local control over our media, given that we are increasingly seeing the consolidation of media companies both nationally and internationally.

As a result of this consolidation we are seeing diversity in programming plummet. 5 channels of ESPN or 12 Cooking shows is not my idea of diversity. The hundreds of local neighborhoods in Queens, or the 110 languages spoken in Brooklyn is the diversity I am talking about, which is reflected through franchising via cable access shows better than any other television medium.

Rather than solving the problem, the Internet is making it worse - while we have access to a wide range of information, we are increasingly alienated from the production of the information. With franchising, and cable access, we not only have access to unique and diverse information, but our communities benefit and transform through the process of creating our own media.