

Along with many others, I'm very concerned about the continuing conglomeration of the media in our beautiful country.

Free, diverse, local, and competitive media sources are essential to the free flow of diverse ideas and discussions -- which is essential to a good democracy composed of a well-informed public.

This goes to the heart of what America is.

We cannot soften or erase the public interest limits on media ownership.

As one activist organization wrote, "Limits on media consolidation have been a bulwark against the concentration of economic power in the marketplace of ideas -- a critical part of balancing the public-service mission of the media with their private-profit motive." I agree.

I've read and heard many news reports that "media consolidation has already led to declines in local and minority ownership as well as the homogenization of content in radio and television." The free sources of information that we depend on are already suffering. We cannot let it get worse, even if it would "save money" and make media companies "more efficient." It's not worth the real cost. The real cost is the quality of public information and awareness -- the foundation of democracy.

I hope you'll protect one of America's most basic values by rejecting media consolidation.