

Media consolidation in the United States has gone far enough; in fact, it's gone much too far. Loosening current (inadequate) limits represents yet another step toward gutting the public interest to enhance the profitability of a relatively few corporations, who have no public responsibility and no sense of civic duty.

It is amazing that a country that claims reverence for competition seems always willing to trade fair competition among the many for collusion among the few.

Past consolidation has already led to impoverishment of the public dialog. We need far more variety, not less, and that variety needs to come from disparate and unrelated sources, not simply from different branches of the same corrupt and dying tree.

In 2003, the FCC tried to further enrich giant media by weakening ownership rules. It seems that bad ideas never die; they just fade away until the next opportunity arises to foist them on the public. I protested the changes in 2003, I oppose them today, and I will be against them in 2009.

The US has an anemic and withering democracy. Anti-democratic forces exist prominently throughout our society. Our elections have become jokes worthy of a banana republic, our representatives mostly front for the rich, both corporate and private, and our media are increasingly unwilling and unable to perform their vital role in a democracy.

Further media consolidation will make revitalizing a dying dream even more difficult. Stop it now!