

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of any relaxation or elimination of the public interest limits on media ownership. Localism and diversity are the cornerstones of a democratic media system, and we cannot afford to compromise them in any way.

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. Our democracy requires the free flow of information from a broad range of diverse voices.

Any public policy seeking to protect diversity in the media must recognize the simple fact that ownership matters. Media consolidation has already led to declines in local and minority ownership as well as the homogenization of content in radio and television. Permitting cross-ownership of newspapers and broadcast stations, or allowing further concentration in local television markets, will only worsen the problems we already have.

When the FCC attempted to weaken and remove media ownership limits in 2003, millions of Americans rose up in protest. Congress and the courts ultimately intervened to turn back that misguided regulatory process.

Now that these same rules are being reconsidered, the FCC should stand firm with the public against further concentration of media ownership in the hands of the few. A vote against media consolidation is a vote for democracy.

If the FCC does not stand up against Corporate greed and influence, then the FCC should be completely dismantled and rebuilt to represent the public in general as it was originally created to do and not just to cater to the special interests. We want true 'Fair and Balance' on the Air Waves that we the people own. Resubmitting the same old Corporate interest only changes from 2003 does not represent the people. It clearly exposes the fact that the FCC is only doing the Elitist's bidding.

The FCC has an obligation to fight for a media that fairly represents all opinions and view points. Under the current rules, this has not been possible.

