

I am writing to express my overwhelming disapproval of any relaxation or elimination of the public interest limits on media ownership, and total disgust that you are even considering passage of such legislation. Localism and diversity are the cornerstones not only of a democratic media system but of our democratic system of government, and we cannot afford to compromise either in any way.

Limits on media consolidation have been a bulwark against the concentration of economic (and political) 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 exacerbate 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 (and for) the public, against further concentration of media ownership in the hands of the few. A vote against media consolidation is a VOTE FOR DEMOCRACY!