

Dear Commissioners:

Please don't allow more media consolidation. When different companies control the TV, radio and print news in my community they compete with each other to provide me better local and national news.

Today media conglomerates not only affect our personal daily lives on a very intimate level, but they also determine the course of politics worldwide. From the mass homogenization of culture to the restriction and manipulation of information, their pictures, viewpoints, and stories dominate the press. Media has been a central part of our lives for quite a while now. It has always reflected and created the social and cultural world in which we live, but it has changed significantly in the past two decades. Before the 1980s and 1990s, American newspapers, radio stations, and television stations offered clear reflections of our world through fair and accurate news reports and through informative programming. The media operated with a clear objective to act in the public interest. In 2006, that is no longer the case. In the past ten years, media ownership has narrowed down to just five major corporations owning over 80% of the media in America. With this consolidation, the information disseminated to the public through news and programming has also narrowed. We only hear what they want us to hear, unless we search through alternative publications looking for the truth. We have lost our diversity of political viewpoints and news sources, according to Project Censored, a media watchdog in Northern California. Instead, we have gained a streamlined media owned and operated by the few. It's time to address this egregious problem and revamp our media system. Please help fight to protect our rights to freedom of information and freedom of the press. Information is the most important aspect of a democracy and truly of an social movement within that democracy.

I don't want the same company that owns my TV station or my radio station to also own my newspaper I would just get the

same news all over again.

I rely on the media to find out about national and local issues. I want to feel confident that I can get all the viewpoints I need to make well-reasoned decisions about these issues. I also want media outlets in my town to care about my needs and interests.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. I look forward to hearing from you about your efforts to ensure diversity, localism and independence in our media.

Sincerely,
Sasha A. Rae