

As the FCC reconsiders its media ownership rules, please don't allow more media consolidation. When different companies control the TV, radio and newspapers in my community, they compete with each other to provide me better local and national news and information.

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 recycled for a different outlet.

I rely on my local media sources to find out about national and local issues. And 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.

I particularly do not want the FCC to be in the pocket of the Federal Government. The FCC was meant to keep a free press viable and responsive to the public. With so many instances of the government manipulating the media by paying supposedly independent newscasters to tout programs the federal government is trying to "sell" to the public and the infamous Valerie Plame case where highly placed government officials "leaked" classified information to a member of the "independent" press for political reasons, the right to a free press won in the John Peter Zenger case and then reinforced in the Bill of Rights is in real danger of being lost. The rights of "Habeus Corpus" and a speedy trial have already gone the way of the passenger pigeon in our country - extinct.

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