

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.

Few could doubt the obvious truth that media ownership matters and determines the content we receive over the public airwaves. We need look no farther than the recent scandal over ABC's "docudrama" about the 9/11 attacks which willfully distorted history about a national tragedy for political reasons. We need local broadcast station owners who will serve the local public interest not those of faraway corporate owners. Stewardship of the public airwaves is a very serious responsibility that merits true public accountability.

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.

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.

As a matter of fact, I have been getting all my news from sources in other countries from the Internet for almost 6 years now -- for about as long as the current regime has been in power in this country and in control of the media through the five radical right wing corporations permitted by the FCC to purchase all the media sources there are in this country except NPR and it is fast going to the dogs, too; and the one and only free speech truth telling station now in existence: Air America. I do listen to that one media outlet on radio regularly, but for the rest of the news I'm far more likely to find the real stories on Pravda than any American "news source" which do not report the news at all but instead read scripted spun and twisted glorifications of the Bush administration which is by far the most dangerous group to have ever held power (which they outright and blatantly stole not once, but twice. A bigger bunch of criminals have never occupied the White House or any office in U.S. government history and this is an outrage from which this country may well never recover.

So, how did they come to own the FCC? The FCC sold us out and sold their own soul in the bargain. Some bargain, as all too soon will become apparent because there is a higher authority who can't be fooled, lied to, or snowed and there are a lot of people who have a lot to answer for -- including those in decision making positions at the FCC, and you know who you are. You may think that it is worth it now; however and whatever bought the character and honor that formerly existed within the FCC.

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. I was one of those who rose up in protest and I do so again right now, as I will the next time and the one after that. This is our country, not King George and his torturing minions that the FCC has chosen to serve instead of honest, decent, and good people who deserve the truth along with the preservation of our civil rights -- which the FCC has done not one thing to preserve or to uphold.

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. This is the FCCs last chance at redemption -- and I don't just mean here and now with the American people; I am referring to the day when you all will be held to account for what you have done while here on this planet for humankind--not for George Bush and Dick Cheney. There is good and there is bad; there is black and there is white, and there is right and there is wrong. There is good and there is evil. You are serving the latter. I'd be changing my ways to serve the greater good before it's too late for your redemption.