

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.

It's quite obvious that over the past several years the diversity of news stories covered by the major papers and news organizations continues to decline. They're just positioned differently to catch your attention. The basic story is the same. I've done my channel surfing on the news shows on ABC, CBS and NBC along with the NY Times, etc. and the diversity of the reporting is minimal. The slant is the same and the facts continue to be less and less while the opinions offered continue to grow. The internet is better but that environment has its own problems. Finally, we shouldn't have to spend money to get reliable news regardless whether its national or local. Information that is trustworthy as well as diverse is a fundamental underpinning of a free society. If the continuing consolidation of the major news organizations is not controlled to ensure this information flow remains the knowledge and understanding that a citizen requires to be a full participant in our government process will continue to decline. That does not bode well for our institutions or our future. Forcing people to go to alternative means to obtain this information is not a solution especially when it comes at an additional cost.

Please do your job to ensure appropriate access to reliable and diverse information that will assist us to do our job.

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.

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.