

It is to the point that I don't listen to the news anymore. Why? Because you can tell from one station to the next that each station puts their own spin on each story they do (or don't) cover. It seems to me that the corporations in charge have told their employees how they want the news covered, what spin to put on it, and the American public, and the country as a whole is getting the short end of the stick because of this.

How can we as a nation remain strong and healthy if the news that we are served is skewed and biased according to a corporation that has ulterior motives? How are we to make correct, smart, just decisions when the very news that we depend on isn't telling us the whole truth?

Is this why our government is in such grave circumstances with 1) the war in Iraq, 2) have a president that is held in disapproval by 66% of the population, 3) the government can now torture people (lowering ourselves to the level of our enemies), 4) why global warming has gotten to the point of no return?

Have we lost the ability to think for ourselves truthfully and logically, based on the incomplete/biased information that the media has decided is safe for us to hear, so we take the easy way out and let the media (big businesses) decide for us how to think?

Will there ever be a study on how the change in mass media since the Regan era has contributed to the decline of our nation?

I love my nation, but things have gotten out of control here. The American public deserves better than this.

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of former FCC Chairman Michael Powell's efforts to bury studies that found media consolidation to be harmful to local news reporting. No decision should be made on ownership until a full and independent investigation of this cover-up is completed.

The FCC can't simply hide data from the public and push through new rules that unleash further consolidation of local news outlets. Localism and diversity are the cornerstones of a democratic media system; we cannot afford to compromise them in any way.

The FCC should allow no relaxation or elimination of the public interest limits on media ownership without first weighing all of the evidence and hearing out widespread public concern about the problems of consolidation.

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 local 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. Allowing further concentration of local media markets, will only worsen the problems we already have.

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.