

I am writing to express my opinion on two related subjects:

1) I strongly oppose any relaxation or elimination of the public interest limits on media ownership. Media consolidation has already compromised the public interest by subjecting us to an increasingly homogenized and corporate version of news and information. Investigative journalism is disappearing, while entertainment takes its place. Local news coverage suffers, and diversity of opinions is reduced. Allowing cross-ownership of multiple newspapers, radio stations, television networks, cable companies, etc. within a single market severely limits competition and erects barriers to entry by concentrating too much power in too few hands.

2) It is vitally important to protect the principle of Net Neutrality. If access and/or content is controlled by corporations, our democracy will be further eroded by stifling competition and free speech. In the 21st century, the Internet serves as a common carrier for our economy just as much as our transportation networks do, and as such it should be equally available to everyone. Telecommunications companies have already shown that they cannot be trusted by failing to develop the high-speed infrastructure that they promised us in the 1990's. As a result, the United States is falling behind other countries technologically. Giving more power to these same telecommunications companies will only exacerbate this problem.

We need real media reform which will roll back the deregulation of recent years, prevent further media consolidation, and institute protection of Net Neutrality.

Thank you.