

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.

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.

Any public policy seeking to protect diversity in the media must recognize the simple fact that ownership matters. 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.

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.

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.

* Corporations all ready 'own' our country as it is, if you permit 'big media' to take control even more, there is no TRUE VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE for which the FCC is supposed to be serving. PLEASE consider the quality of programming that is currently available on 'corporate' channels compared to publicly owned media and how much will be removed from our Quality of Life. In the interest of the Constitution and Rights of the People... Please consider the depths and honesty of our plees. Information and education only non-drug remedies, natural stengthening through diet, drugs in foods, honest ways to avoid disease, there are soo many things that corporations only have an interest in money/greed and not the Citiznes/People for which stations such as Lime, PBS, IFC covering important real issues, Free Speach TV... if we are 'forced' to turn to the Internet which is also being jeopardized and threatened in Corporate Ownership - Do you really want us to turn into another Fully Censored nation? Please say NO - and protect our pursuits to Life Liberty and Happiness!