

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.

Add to this, the polemic pundits at Rupert Murdoch's malapropos Fox News network, spreading pseudo-journalistic Faux News. In 1996, Mr. Murdoch successfully accomplished receiving an exemption for the presidential general election campaign from the "equal opportunities" provision [3] from the FCC, by prevarication, and possibly some type of malfeasance or nepotism, claiming that it was actually "on-the-spot" news coverage and using that exemption to bolster the candidates that fostered his viewpoint; this is no different than it is today. This network constantly makes false statements, and interjecting their view, stating that their views are actual news and that their news is "fair and balanced" when in reality they adroitly propagate argumentative and extremely biased propaganda. What does the FCC do about this? Nothing! Unlike the responsibility that the FCC should have for it's populace, they let these corporations get away with malefaction, transgressions, and prevaricated facts.

No corporation should be allowed to expostulate beliefs without clearly classifying that it is their viewpoint and not a provable fact. This is especially true of any news organization. If a news organization wishes to asseverate information as news, they should need to be able to back up this information with provable facts.

One of the biggest problems that I see in this country is the dissoluteness of corporations and their pre-eminence. Through delusive expostulation, allurements with enticements, and pay-offs, these corporations have circumvented many laws, and convinced legislators to deregulate the guidelines that they had to follow, providing more permissive corporate laws. While this may have helped in some areas, it has led to corporations to be considered a legal entity, which, while being composed of natural persons, exists, completely separate from them. This single peculiarity gives corporations' a unique power and ability that no other legal entities can achieve. This allows them to become oligarchic in nature and to be able to further their ignis fatuus tendencies while they further their domination and subjugate the benighted through exploitation.

I feel as though the FCC, as it is being run by the present and previous Chairman's, should change its name from "Federal Communications Commission" to "Federalized Corporate Chicanery." The changes that were implemented by Former Chairman Michael K. Powell, and what changes the current Chairman Kevin J. Martin is trying to allow, shows the prevalence towards the privation of the rights and the property of the People of the United States, and their strong advocacy for allowing corporate predominance and oligarchic control.

Those that watch graft-ridden and stage-managed television news are spoon-fed what the corporations want. If a reporter/commentator/anchor actually tries to do their own story and not what was put together by the "editors", you do not see them any more on that, and generally any other, corporate television news programs.

Stop big media and support public interests!

[3] http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Mass_Media/Informal/fox_request.txt