

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.

Unbiased Media Coverage is already incredibly hard to get and allowing more consolidation only worsens the problem. The public is currently unable to get media attention that shows both sides of any story.

The FCC has, in the recent past, allowed the media and the big business that owns it to sway how it treats individuals and businesses and this point is evidenced by some courageous citizens and small business owners who have had the guts to sue them (the FCC, FDA etc...)

We are tired of having our government agencies, that are tasked with protecting the public, side with big business and then have our paid officials leave their post to take cushy jobs with the same companies that they have just helped, and consequently harmed the public with.

The FCC should be strengthening the ANTI Trust and Monopoly rules instead of relaxing them further.

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. Ownership ultimately decides, 1-who advertises, 2-who gets coverage, 3-editorial content, 4-slant or spin put on information. All of this projects a certain opinion and frankly, many Americans and others gaining their information from the media, think that if it's "on the News" or "On TV" or "In the Paper", that "It must be True". Well that is just not the case, and to allow only a few opinions to be presented is a travesty for the American Public. 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.

Don't MAKE us fight the FCC again..... Your Salaries, (not the corporate kick backs) are paid by the Citizens of the United States of America. Would you all PLEASE start doing what we pay you for.

That means your job is to Protect Our Rights from Big Business, not Protect Big Business when they restrict our access to information.

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.