

The last chance at a free press

The First Amendment's guarantee that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of the press is trampled upon with every action taken to control the availability of information on the Internet.

The Internet is unlike broadcast television in that finite, limited spectral space is involved in the commercial media. Someone has to control access to that space; that obviously is not what the Founders intended.

Anyone who could get access to a printing press and pay for paper, ink, and a printer's time could publish what they wanted say. It was via such means that pamphlets like "Common Sense" were distributed; ultimately it was how the Declaration was distributed to inform the colonies that they were now one nation.

A century ago major cities had multiple news papers; now most have one which itself is one of a conglomerate. Ditto other sources of "news", e.g., FM radio.

The Internet has been a move back in the direction that the Founders envisioned. It empowers and enables citizens to share their common sense with other citizens in order to form a more perfect union. This should not be subverted to meet the objectives of commercial or other self-centered interests.