

We, the people of the United States of America, need to know what is happening in government and around the country and the globe in order to make sound decisions.

By allowing the consolidation of the media into a few corporations, this goes against:

(1) anti-trust act

(2) full and informed participation in our own country

I also watched the Bill Moyer show about the FCC and this issue on Friday, November 2nd. It is very clear that the head of the FCC is a young fellow without the proper perspective for the country as a whole and is seemingly unable to rise above the pressure of the giant media corporations. The head of the FCC must step down to make room for someone else--who is more experienced, wiser, more knowledgeable, and proactive for Americans--to take over the command of this important commission to keep it independent of the companies that it regulates.

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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.