

To Whom This May Concern At The FCC,

I am writing to express my concerns over a Comcast NBC Universal merger. This deal should NOT BE ALLOWED AT ALL -- why should a company that provides Internet and TV service be able to own content that flows through them -- that's a conflict of interest. Comcast already has a conflict of interest wanting to prioritize web traffic and discriminate against specific online content and services when it comes to discriminating against online video on demand systems or services like Apple iTunes Store and Apple TV, Xbox Live Video Marketplace, Boxee.tv, etc that offer competing product/services to Comcast's digital cable TV service -- wanting to protect their business they have announced TV Everywhere to force their Internet users to pay for digital cable TV in order to access video sharing sites online like YouTube.

Comcast's CEO told U.S. Senator Al Franken recently that the FCC has program carriage rules that would protect consumers from being harmed by the combined Comcast-NBC Universal but as Senator Franken later observed Comcast's lobbyists tried to argue that the FCC should not have the power to mandate program carriage rules let alone enforce them. So which is it? As Senator Franken stated he believes Comcast will say or do anything -- make any concession or promise now to gain approval for the merger but once granted assuming it is accepted will be free to do as they please -- sure they may have to comply with some rules for a brief period of time -- AT&T was required to comply with Net Neutrality for 2 more years as a condition of it being allowed to merge with SBC Communications & Bell South.

What the FCC at the time failed to realize and act upon is the concern what happens next? Today, I read a report that states it is likely the deal may be approved with conditions -- and that this judgment was made before the Congressional hearings even began.

That is unacceptable -- if this is the case the FCC and the DOJ acting on their own -- ignoring public comments, that is your ignoring the public interest, the will of the people and Congress and have decided you don't care what Congress or the American

public think.

At one time during the Bush Administration former FCC Chairman Kevin Martin tried to lift FCC regulations preventing cross ownership by 1 company of a local TV channel and a radio channel etc -- despite overwhelming public opposition to more media consolidation, comments sent in to the FCC expressing displeasure with the idea Chairman Martin ignored the public's will and still tried to push this through -- several of us -- concerned individuals who were concerned then about lifting cross ownership rules wrote and phoned our Senators and Representatives in Congress and you know what the U.S. Congress voted unanimously to reject the then Bush FCC's latest outrageous attempt to allow big media to get any bigger.

Why is it that we're now allowing monopolization of a number of markets -- during the 1990s and earlier we had antitrust enforcement -- breaking up anti-competitive companies that had monopoly control and creating new competition where there was none -- to protect consumers -- since 2001 under President George W. Bush corporate power has grown -- government has not tried to keep it in check -- the tragic Citizens United decision by the U.S. Supreme Court strengthens corporate power even further. If anything we should be banning mega mergers like this -- if this passes after all it will lead to a flurry of more mega merger deals with more media companies consolidating even further -- if a service provider of TV and Internet access feels it must own content then other big companies in the same space put at a competitive disadvantage by the merger will feel the need to consolidate their own businesses further to keep up.

This results in less competition and consumer choice. Why is it the government and the media so far seem to be reporting this as a done deal? A problem with media consolidation is big media chains that own newsrooms -- in their newsrooms they don't report hard hitting investigative journalism anymore -- they don't report news stories on government or corporate scandals all the time -- they hide news that embarrasses them -- as far as media ethics goes this is the people in control of the media choosing not to report about the state of their own business or industry -- for example, corporate news media don't report on their own failings

as often as they should and won't. We need independent media and more diversity -- journalists who give a voice to the voiceless and provide reporting and coverage that is better in quality than the junk news we are getting now. No sensationalism, no PR spin, or partisan shouting matches, no infotainment -- a problem with broadcast news media is some stations have replaced news reporting as their motive with profit and news as the medium -- networks that will report anything that sells, and gets them higher ratings -- so the more viewers they have the more advertisers and ad revenues they can get end up creating news - - reporting fiction as news. When a story that is untrue gets reported it violates journalistic ethics and can shatter the public's trust, bad media is bad news for democracy, and bad for the public interest.

Here are some questions put to Comcast on Free Press's DearComcast.com site concerning the merger:

Dear Comcast,

Why are you providing fake assurances to U.S. Senators like Al Franken concerned with the merger's negative affects on consumers that the FCC with its power to enforce program carriage laws can protect consumers interests, & indy broadcasters but then your lawyers fight program carriage laws.

Sincerely,
Maneesh Pangasa, Yuma, AZ

Dear Comcast,

With consumer rights groups supportive of the FCC decision in 2008 penalizing you for violating Net Neutrality and blocking users access to Bit Torrent why don't you drop your lawsuit against the FCC you filed in 2008 and comply with Net Neutrality? Do what's best for your users.

Sincerely,
Maneesh Pangasa, Yuma, AZ

Dear Comcast,

Why did you claim if you were to try to 'deny, delay, or degrade' the Internet experience that our more than 9 million cable Internet customers have paid for, you would lose customers, why did you file a lawsuit in 2008 against the FCC to stop them from sanctioning you for violating Net Neutrality?

Sincerely,
Maneesh Pangasa, Yuma, AZ

Dear Comcast,

Why did you spend more than \$5.5 million dollars in campaign contributions for Washington politicians since 2006 and rather than spending that money lobbying to get your way why not serve the public interest and invest in faster Internet networks?

Sincerely,
Maneesh Pangasa, Yuma, AZ

Dear Comcast,

Why did you claim last year you did not make enough money to invest in faster Internet networks when you made more than \$3.6 billion dollars in profit, and why are you raising rates by 50 percent in some markets?

Sincerely,
Maneesh Pangasa, Yuma, AZ

Dear Comcast,

Will you make your business more open to the public, who are your customers, so we know about your lobbying and other business practices?

Sincerely,
Michael Villacres, New York, NY

Dear Comcast,

Monopolies are not good for America. When money becomes your God, God will get you.

Also, Comcast wins the worst commercial prize. With all that \$ can't you afford better commercials that don't break our ear drums when they come on?

Sincerely,
Joyce, Anderson, IN

Dear Comcast,

Business as usual just isn't working for us anymore. Please realize that there are more important things in this world than being the most powerful and successful monopoly you can achieve. When will you have enough money and power? Can you please think of more than the bottom line?

Sincerely,
Amy Sejfulla, Grosse Pointe, MI

Dear Comcast,

and NBC,

Please allow Canada to broadcast its own Olympics. Also, show the games as they happen, and tell Costas to stop poking fun of other cultures every opening ceremony.

Sincerely,
Dena, Renton, WA

Dear Comcast,

why do you keep giving potential users a great deal if they subscribe and no good deals to old users. It may tell us that comcast is a monopoly and we have no choices or hardly any choices to subscribe to other companies, It would seem so and this seems very unconstitutional.

Sincerely,

pat schreer, Port Charlotte, FL

Dear Comcast,

I believe your proposal to take over NBC is not good for America. Concentration is one of the factors that is undermining democracy. Corporations are so rich and powerful that federal legislators are afraid to oppose them. When corporations/government unite, we have fascism.

Sincerely,
David Nelson, Mansfield, CT

Dear Comcast,

I'm a Comcast stockholder (240 shares), and have a vested interest in the company's doing well, but the matter of media consolidation is of great concern to me.

Though you will undoubtedly leave your children with a tidy inheritance, is a world with uncompetitive media something you also wish to leave them?

Sincerely,
A.L. Hern, Los Angeles, CA

Dear Comcast,

how much is enough, how much do you need to be happy?

Sincerely,
t logan, Austin, TX

Dear Comcast,

I'd like to know what you are really thinking when you give all those nice answers at the congressional hearing.

Sincerely,
Dan Hiscock, Seville, FL

Dear Comcast,

What do you care about doing with your organization?

Sincerely,
David Romportl, Saint Louis Park, MN

Dear Comcast,

If media corporations are allowed to consolidate in the name of more efficient corporate profits then "free" speech will become very expensive indeed.

Sincerely,
Dennis McPherson, Lee's Summit, MO

Dear Comcast,

Just as you have helped make t.v. inaccessible to low income folks, you want to do the same with internet. Democracy requires a well read public, but it will be in corporations like you and your advertisers to limit access to sites that expose information you prefer to hide.

Sincerely,
Freja Robinsong, Hayward, CA

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Dear Comcast,

Why after in the past this country tried hard to eliminate monopolies, now you want to create them in the name public good when is totally the opposite? Monopolies are detrimental to every one.

Sincerely,
Jose Ardon, Houston, TX

Dear Comcast,

How does this serve the public interest?

Sincerely,
Torry Mercer, Houston, TX

Dear Comcast,

A subscription Cable provider has no place on free airwaves. You had your chance to form an alternate network. You made your choice. Live with it.

Sincerely,
Kevin Sima, Catonsville, MD